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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

JORDANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER URGES SUPPORT OF IRAQ

LD101046 Kuwait KUNA in English 1001 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Oct (KUNA)--Jordan's Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim said that preparations were afoot to hold an Arab summit conference in Amman on November 25.

The minister told AL-ANBA' newspaper in an interview published here Friday that the Arab foreign ministers, attending the U.N. General Assembly session in New York, agreed to send a seven-member ministerial committee to Amman on October 22 to prepare a united Arab strategy to be presented to the forthcoming 11th summit conference.

Defending his country's support to Iraq in its war with Iran, the minister said that such support was not motivated by a spirit of aggression but it was to help [words indistinct] its (?historic) rights.

Minister al-Qasim urged other Arab countries to take a clear stand on this war saying that such stand would help pressure Iran to come to terms with Iraq and to keep the Gulf region free from foreign intervention.

Answering a question on the big powers' reactions to the war, the minister said that these powers, which have vested interests, wanted to impose their dominance over the whole region. Thus, he added, prolonging the war and the draining of the military force of the two combatant countries would help these powers achieve their goals.

He said that only serious action through Arab solidarity could block any attempt by these powers for polarising the Arab world. He asserted that such Arab solidarity would be viewed by the U.S. as a direct and real threat to Israel--its agent in the Middle East.

CSO: 4820

TWO FATAH LEADERS ATTACK JORDAN

Interview With Abu Iyyad

Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Sep 80 p 11

[Text] Abu Iyyad Says, "Campaign of Slander Against Palestinians To Evacuate Them From Gulf; We Try To Talk to Jordan, and Jordan Arrests Our People; Phalangists Failed To Assassinate Sarkis; Oil Weapon Not Used Out of Fear of United States."

A prominent Palestinian official has charged Jordanian intelligence with detaining Palestinians and Jordanians and has warned against a disaster in relations between the Resistance and Jordan.

He expressed his astonishment with the campaigns of slander being launched in the Gulf region against the Palestinians to justify their deportation.

The Palestinian official, who is Salah Khalaf [alias] Abu Iyyad, revealed that the Phalangists had failed twice in attempts to assassinate Lebanon's president, Elias Sarkis. Abu Iyyad called for Palestinian solidarity with Syria to confront the challenges.

Abu Iyyad, the second man in the Fatah Movement, which is the largest Palestinian organization, was speaking in an interview with AL-SAFIR which was printed yesterday.

He acknowledged that "The present state of relations between the Palestinian Resistance and the Jordanian regime is creating numerous difficulties for us."

He added, "While Palestinian officials were going to Jordan to sit around the negotiating table with Jordanian officials, Jordanian intelligence was launching campaigns of raids and arrests against our Palestinian and Jordanian peoples."

Review

In his interview with AL-SAFIR Abu Iyyad hinted that the Resistance may "reconsider" its present relations with Jordan. He said: "That the Jordanian regime should continue to be the sole beneficiary of its relations with the [Palestine] Liberation Organization either through obtaining Arab funds or through political action to achieve a United Arab kingdom, is a matter that requires an urgent review, because continuation of such relationship without controls will lead to disaster."

The Oil Weapon

Abu Iyyad added, "One begins to get the feeling that the Arabs do not want to introduce the oil [weapon] into the battle for numerous reasons, chief among which are fear of the United States, fear of U.S. occupation and fear of confronting the United States." But he said, "This fear is unjustified, because if we were to place barrels of gunpowder under the oil wells, and threaten to blow up the oil wells in case there is any threat to the sovereignty of this or that [Arab] state, no power in the world--not the United States or anybody else--would dare to even think of occupying or invading any Arab country."

He said, "I believe that some Arabs do not want to use oil in the battle by threatening to cut it off, by controlling its prices or by selling it to friendly countries at lower prices. Therefore, they resorted to endorsing the European initiative, so as to cover up their positions and claim that through their efforts Europe has begun to lean in favor of our cause."

Abu Iyyad called upon Syria and the Palestinian Resistance to rise and confront the challenges. He said, "If we and Syria do not rise and confront the challenges with a united effort, the Arab situation will deteriorate further."

Abu Iyyad also called on the Palestinian Resistance to take up its position in the Syrian-Libyan union "in whose vital center it must be."

Abu Iyyad accused the command of the Phalangist party's militia of working to implement an Israeli decision to settle the Palestinians in Lebanon.

He said that the Phalangists' insistence that the battle against the Palestinians should continue in effect sets the stage for their resettlement [in Lebanon].

Abu Iyyad accused the Phalangist party of trying twice and failing to assassinate the president of the Republic of Lebanon, Elias Sarkis.

The Denunciation Campaign

Regarding what is being said about expecting the Palestinians to have a role in future disturbances in the Gulf states, Abu Iyyad said, "The purpose of these rumors is to drive a wedge between the Palestinians on one hand, and area residents and incoming Arabs on the other, so as to justify deporting the Palestinians from the area and strengthening U.S. presence in it."

In this regard, Abu Iyyad denounced the explosion at AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper, and said that the Resistance condemns such action and would not allow any person who is related to the Palestinian Revolution to undertake it.

Abu Iyyad expressed his surprise with the campaigns of slander that the Palestinians are being subjected to in some Arab countries. He said that the Resistance would not refuse to bring any guilty Palestinian to trial, but that it is opposed to contrived campaigns against the Palestinians.

On the other hand, Abu Iyyad emphasized that the Palestinian Resistance had documents to prove that the Lebanese Phalangist party had participated in the explosion that took place in the Italian city of Bologna last month. Many people lost their lives in that explosion.

He said, "Terrorists from a number of Fascist West European parties are being trained in training camps run by the Phalangist party." He added that Fascist elements of these parties were being trained to carry out sabotage activities in Western Europe.

Interview With Abu Sharar

Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Sep 80 p 11

[Text] Abu Sharar Tells AL-WATAN: "Jordanian Move Under Way To Abolish Role of PLO."

Rome--Majid Abu Sharar, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement, has accused Jordan of making considerable material gains since the Baghdad Summit which allocated 1.25 billion dollars for Jordanian steadfastness. In a statement made to AL-WATAN, Abu Sharar said, "Jordan did nothing all through these years to confront Israel." He went on to add that "through the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee To Support Steadfastness in the Occupied Territories, Jordan was able to gain much and not lose anything. Jordan took part in managing the affairs of our people in the occupied territories and expanded the front loyal to it."

The Palestinian official indicated that "Jordan has recently begun to present itself as a representative of the Palestinian people along with the PLO."

He said, "We can now say that we hold an opposite position."

Abu Sharar expects an eruption resulting from this incompatibility between the Resistance and Jordan to take place in the coming months.

He said: "We are now gathering available information about Jordanian diplomatic moves in Europe, the United States and the Arab region. We have evidence to prove that these communications are all based on abolishing the role of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

8592

CSO: 4802

FUROR OVER JERUSALEM STATUS SHAKES ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 Sep 80 p 9

/Article: "War of Words Settles Over the City of Jerusalem"/

/Text/ Meron Benvenisti, former mayor of Jerusalem, has said, "If the Arabs say that they feel intense affiliation with Jerusalem, we must believe them. We are not the ones to judge the extent to which that sentiment is real." He does not expect that the Arabs will accept occupation under any circumstances and considers that the solution to the problem of Jerusalem will be the final step along the road to a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Benvenisti says, "On our part we must pursue every necessary policy, if only unilaterally, to improve the living conditions of the Arabs of Jerusalem, and not take any political steps which will have the effect of shutting out the options of the future and making the Arabs feel that their existence is endangered."

The fact is that the unification of the city of Jerusalem, in the eyes of the Jews, means the incorporation of all areas lying within the limits drawn up directly after the 6-day war. These do not just include sacred and historical sites but apply also to geographic features like the strategic hills and the airports lying close to the Jewish settlements. We even find the leader of the "Peace Now" movement, in a private discussion he had recently with his friends, defending the restoration of occupied territories, "except for Jerusalem." He said, "I admit that I am not correct on this matter, but I insist on the need that Jerusalem remain united." He failed to reply to a question on whether unity could be imposed by one population group on another.

Jerusalem remains the city of peace, but, in spite of that appellation, this city has witnessed wars no other city on the face of the earth has witnessed. We can describe the current war looming in the skies over Jerusalem as one of words, comprising political decisions, parliamentary statements and improper allegations on the part of various parties.

The negotiators who are trying to create a permanent peace in the Middle East continue to admit that Jerusalem will prove to be the most difficult problem of all to resolve. For this reason they incline to put it to the side, preferring not to think about it until everything else is settled.

However, Menachem Begin, by putting his weight behind the memorandum from an Israeli parliament member who appealed to turn Jerusalem into the eternal, indivisible capital of Israel, has put the future of the city in the center of the picture. In reality, through this decision of his, Menachem Begin has given the Arabs anxiety over the destiny of the city and created willing ears for Arab protests on the status of Jerusalem which many people had ignored in the past.

Thirteen countries whose embassies are situated in the city have declared their determination to move their embassies to Tel Aviv, including most of the embassies which moved recently, especially that of The Netherlands, which is considered one of the most intensely supportive of Israel.

In the same city, the "laws of the city" are rarely subject to amendment. These laws emphasize the mere followup of the changes which began 13 years ago when Israel occupied the Arab half and quickly incorporated it into itself. Since then, Israel has tried, through tremendous construction plans, to expand and deepen its grip.

Jerusalem is considered a holy city to all three religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. As far as the Jews go, it is the old city of David and the site of the first and second temples. For Christians, it expresses the greatest moments in the life of the Messiah. As regards Moslems, it is the place from which the prophet Muhammad (on whom be God's blessings and peace) ascended to heaven.

However, the number of adherents to these religions who have any understanding of the reality of this city, which is distinguished by the great use of car horns, traffic congestion in its small modest commercial establishments, and its narrow buildings and alleys, in addition to some modern outskirts, is limited.

For 19 years of its long bloody history, the city was divided by barbed wire and stones. Jordan administered a part and Israel administered the other part. Nonetheless, the reality created during the period between 1948 and 1967 left permanent traces on Jerusalem. When the Israelis invaded Jordan and occupied the Jordanian Arab part of the city in 1967, they found the city totally different from the one they had known.

Because they occupy direct common borders close to their commercial centers, the governments of Israel and Jordan neglected the two parts of the city. In Israel, Tel Aviv and the other coastal cities experienced most of the development programs, while in Jordan the city of Amman and the other East Bank towns enjoyed most of them.

One of the things which inspired laughter among Jews in Israeli Jerusalem in the period before the 1967 war was riding the bus to Tel Aviv. As regards Jordan, Jerusalem was the city of merchants who provided services for thousands of tourists and pilgrims coming from various parts of the world to visit the holy sites.

In June 1967 the two parties were compelled to resume contact in a sudden, savage manner, and here the shock was mutual. The Arabs looked with perplexity at the Israeli traffic lights and the girls in their Hot Pants. The Jews were likewise surprised by a series of shops selling Western goods at low prices.

The life which has gone on for 13 years had done nothing to bring the views of the Arabs and the Jews closer and improve relations between them. Rather, it has worked to deepen the cleavage, because Israel's determination to intensify its grip over the city has led to the alienation of the Arab inhabitants.

Thus the Jewish section of the old city was regained and rebuilt with the utmost care. In addition, residential buildings closer to fortresses were built in a manner surrounding eastern Jerusalem with the objective of defending it from attacks from the east, and the Arab section was surrounded by a wall of Israeli presence.

The result is that Jewish sections are spread about inside present-day Jerusalem now while some of the Arab inhabitants live inside them. West of the city lies Israel and to the east lies the West Bank with its Palestinian inhabitants, who feel increasing anger over the spread of Israeli buildings. Although Israel incorporated east Jerusalem in 1967, Israeli legal experts doubt the legality of this action. In spite of their awareness of the non-legitimacy of their demand for the Arab city, they have permitted Arabs in east Jerusalem to continue studies according to the curriculum in Jordan. They have also permitted Arabs to acquire citizenship, but, if they fail to take advantage of this initiative, Israel does not do anything to compel them to do so.

Thus Jerusalem remains two cities: a quarter of a million Jews living in west Jerusalem where the Jewish sections are, while there are more than 100,000 Arabs living in the old city and the eastern sections, which remain wholly Arab. Perhaps the construction of Jewish buildings has led to the elimination of the material boundaries, but every Arab and every Jew knows the map through which the partition line that is not now evident passes.

If we view matters from the logic of force, we can state that Israel committed a great mistake in 1967 by failing to expel the Arab inhabitants and then claim that that occurred under the impulse of voluntary group emigration. However, the Israelis were bewildered when they found themselves occupying the Arab section of the city; they had not thought about the future problems the invasion of the city and the inhabitants would entail. It is not now in Israel's power to attempt to create such a

solution to the problem of Jerusalem, without creating a wave of doubts even among such allies as America.

Even the claim that the city is the capital of Israel raises a storm of protest. It does not appear that Menachem Begin wants to change this variable reality; if he did, he would not have exhibited all this interest in it. Because he is still living through his struggle of the forties, he is continuing to achieve his goal by returning all "the land of Israel" to Jewish dominance, out of his belief that the mistaken Western sympathy toward the Jews is evaporating somewhat in a world thirsting for oil. Through his support for the memorandum of one member of the Israeli Knesset on Jerusalem, Menachem Begin has drawn the attention of the whole world to Jerusalem and consequently to Israel's conduct and has succeeded in provoking the collective departure of embassies from this city which Israel wants all countries of the world to consider the eternal capital of Israel.

Thus the struggle which has gone on for a number of years to stress that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel has come to face an embarrassing destiny. In view of the fact that the objective revolved about the internationalization of the city, in accordance with the partition plan drawn up in 1947, no state has officially declared its recognition that Jerusalem is its capital. The Netherlands, which for a long period continued to display great sympathy toward Israel, raised the level of its diplomatic representation in Jerusalem from that of a consulate general to an embassy. However, no other European country tried to emulate it. In the sixties, Israel persuaded a number of Latin American countries to open their embassies in Jerusalem, but the number of embassies did not exceed 13.

The fact that the major Israeli officials actually prefer to be in Tel Aviv provokes ridicule. Menachem Begin lived there in a small apartment for 30 years and moved to Jerusalem only in 1977 when the victory in the elections gave him a residence in the "capital."

The members of the ruling Likud coalition, who bore journalists, commercial organizations, and businessmen with their frequent appeals to move to Jerusalem, tend to become tongue-tied when faced with a question on why the coalition's political headquarters are still in Tel Aviv. In spite of the intellectual stumbling and bumbling on Jerusalem, Tel Aviv remains the commercial and cultural center of the state, containing the companies, banks, theaters, symphony halls and museums of art.

In spite of all that, Menachem Begin claims that there is broad intellectual consensus among Israelis on the need to keep Jerusalem Israel's undivided capital. The fact that the opposition Labor Party voted in favor of the Jerusalem memorandum emphasizes that the former ruling party shares the Likud bloc's view. Even Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat, the only Arab leader who has striven toward peace with Israel, admits that the issue of Jerusalem is very complicated, finding it preferable not to raise it until all the other issues are discussed.

However, his reasons, which are well known and deep rooted within himself, are that he has chosen to adopt measures which have made Jerusalem the issue of the hour at a time when the autonomy talks have become stalled and only a few months remain until the American presidential elections.

By passing the Jerusalem Law, Menachem Begin has made the future of negotiations on the destiny of the Arab section of the city more complicated and consequently has forced the United States, which is Israel's main supporter, to be concerned with the developments occurring in the city. This renewed concern has also stirred up a number of expectations among Arab inhabitants. They have made protest demonstrations in past years and now hope that the world will wake up to their catastrophe.

In spite of the thousands of jobs available to them in Israeli companies and the Israeli social benefits they enjoy, the Arabs of Jerusalem still feel that they are not part of Israel. They still hope that the city on whose territory they live will become the capital of Palestine someday.

After 13 years of Israeli occupation and ineffective international protests and condemnation resolutions, the Arabs have no faith in any international solution to their problems in Jerusalem. They know that Israel occupied Jerusalem through the use of force. Most of them consider that the proper way to create a change in this situation will also occur only through the use of force. However, peaceful coexistence among Arabs and Jews in Jerusalem can only really be achieved when both parties enjoy equal political rights and neither party is subject to the other.

11887

CSO: 4802

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

LATEST INFORMATION ON ISRAELI OCCUPATION BROADCAST TO WORLD

Kuwait AL RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 Sep 80 p 18

/Article: "Letter from Amman: Declarations from the Occupied Territories: a Call To Confront the Zionist Plan To Judaize Jerusalem"/

/Text/ Following the confiscation of land, the spread of settler communities throughout the West Bank and the total judaization of Jerusalem, the Israeli occupation authorities are trying to judaize the education law in the occupied West Bank. Israeli Military Order No 854, issued at the beginning of August, amending the Arabic education law, is nothing but a new attempt to strip the domestic Arab universities of their freedom and independence, impose the Israeli education officer on them, and place them under the dominance of military rule, because the universities are waging a vicious struggle in the occupied territories to confront the judaization process, the confiscation of land and the evacuation of legitimate inhabitants from the towns and villages.

The masses in the occupied territories are now embarked on a heated struggle to thwart the effect of the military defense order, which submits the universities and institutes to dominance by the occupation. In occupied Jerusalem, the executive committee of the Council on Higher Education of the Union Federation met and issued a statement condemning the Zionist step. Herewith is the text of the statement:

"The executive committee of the Council on Higher Education declares and states the following:

"1. Order 854 issued by the occupying Israeli forces on 6 July 1980, which is an aggression against the Education Law (No 16 for the Year 1964), is a clear violation of international agreements and the Fourth Geneva Convention, which explicitly stipulate that the laws prevailing prior to the occupation are to remain and be adhered to.

"2. The amendment of Subsection Two and Subsection Eight of the Education Law contained in Order 854, making no distinction between elementary and

university education arising therefrom, is a violation of the sanctity of education and a belittlement of its status and level.

"3. The amendment of Subsection 26 of that law, placing university teaching staffs and professors under the jurisdiction of what is called security legislation and administrative orders, is aimed at suppressing the freedom of university professors and putting them under constant intellectual terror and has the goal of forcing experts and competent persons to evacuate the occupied territories and emigrate from them.

"4. Subsection 59, Paragraphs A, B and C, is amended in a manner whereby a military official will govern higher education affairs who may consult with the regional commander and the police commander and give them the right to adopt measures fettering the institutions of higher education and universities with military personnel who can appreciate the responsibility of these institutions only through a viewpoint obscured by military verdicts and security illusions.

"5. Considering educational institutions, including universities, existing on the West Bank, to have received temporary permits as of 8 July 1980 according to the contents of Order No 854 is a diminution of these universities and is contradictory to their firm presence and their effective activities, which have enabled them to acquire international recognition. It threatens the progress of these universities in the qualitative and quantitative senses and exposes them to grave dangers, including shutdown. Order 854 is no less grave than previous acts which have been condemned by Palestinian and international citizens and institutions inside and outside the occupied territories. Among the actions the military authorities and personnel of the Israeli army have taken in the past year we mention breaking into universities and institutes, aggressions against students by beating and firing on students, inflicting various wounds on many of them, the arrest of a large number, their imprisonment and the sentencing of a number of students to pay exorbitant financial penalties. We do not believe, after all this, that the goal of Israeli military occupation is the interest of higher education.

"Therefore the Council on Higher Education and its executive committee condemn this order, demand that it be abrogated and that everything derived from it be abrogated, and request all universities and higher institutes, from boards of trustees to departments, faculties and students, to be cognizant of the gravity of this matter and to take appropriate positions to guarantee freedom of education and expression.

"We also request the Unesco organization, the United Nations and all people working in the sphere of higher education in its various organizations in all areas of the world to strive to stop orders of this kind and to guarantee freedom of education for the people of the occupied nation at a time when many of their rights and freedoms have been taken away."

Statement by Bir Zayt University

A statement of condemnation has also been issued by all departments in Bir Zayt University. The statement declares that the university refuses to deal with the Israeli decree or respond to it because it is in contradiction with the essence and independence of the university and its academic freedom and is in contradiction with educational concepts followed in all areas of the world.

Here is the text of the statement:

Statement of Condemnation Issued by All Departments of Bir Zayt University

"In accordance with the conviction of the trustees, administrators, professors, employees and students of Bir Zayt University, the danger latent in Order No 854 issued by the military governor of the West Bank on 6 July 1980, which was conveyed with three other orders bearing on education to the vice president of the university on 30 July 1980, is embodied in the following points:

"First, amendment of Education Law No 16 for the Year 1964 is in contradiction with international laws, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which stipulates that occupation authorities do not have the right to change the systems the occupied country had been following.

"Second, stipulating that one must obtain written permission from the military governor to work as a professor or join as a student in the university is unacceptable because it violates the powers of the university and totally ignores the sound academic principles followed to appoint professors and accept students. Conversely, the powers which have been granted to the military governor in this regard in accordance with this order absolutely do not specify the bases on which he can rely.

"Third, this order is contradictory with recognized educational legislation through its application to universities of the provisions of the education law, which was basically codified for institutions below the university level, whereas this latter law basically and clearly excepts university institutions from its provisions.

"Fourth, this order conflicts with general legal principles in considering military provisions and administrative detention a basis for preventing professors from engaging in the academic tasks they are qualified to perform, and putting this law into effect is basically illegitimate.

"Fifth, placing the university under the authority of an education officer in a manner turning the university into an organization which has implicitly received a temporary permit is in contradiction with the powers and responsibilities of the board of trustees of the university and its administration and negates the legitimate status which the university has

acquired by virtue of its membership in international university federations and its scientific links with distinguished universities in various countries.

"In accordance with all this, all departments of Bir Zayt University declare their decision not to deal with these orders and stress their refusal to respond to any orders which will have the effect of conflicting with the identity, independence, continued performance of duties and academic freedom of the university and will also have the effect of contradicting the educational concepts followed in all areas of the world. They also urge all local authorities concerned and international educational authorities to strive to preserve the academic freedom which all international custom acknowledges."

Statement by Dr Nasir

In Amman, Dr Hanna Nasir, the director of Bir Zayt University, whom the occupation authorities banished years ago, stated that the Israeli defense order is to be considered one of the most dangerous schemes aimed at thwarting the role of the universities and preventing them from performing their pioneering role as educational institutions aimed at supporting and implanting our people and enabling them to persevere in the occupied territories.

In a press statement, Dr Nasir said that the Israeli law violates international agreements and the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibit amending or changing what had prevailed prior to the occupation. Dr Nasir said that the Federation of Arab Universities and universities and higher educational institutions in the Arab countries must take charge of the task of defending the academic freedoms in the universities and institutes of the occupied territories and present their cause at all levels.

Herewith is the text of the statement which Dr Hanna Nasir issued:

"The universities in the occupied territories are facing a vicious campaign by military occupation authorities. While these universities are constantly struggling for their freedom and independence, the Israeli occupation authorities on 6 July 1980 issued Military Defense Order No 854 amending Education Law No 16 for the Year 1964.

"According to this law, the universities and higher institutes in the territories occupied in 1967 are connected to an Israeli education officer-- that is, are placed under the dominance of military rule.

"This law is to be considered one of the most dangerous schemes aimed at thwarting the role of the universities and preventing them from performing their pioneering role as higher educational institutions, whose existence is aimed at support and implanting our Palestinian people and enabling them to persevere in the occupied territories.

"The gravity of this amendment comes from the fact that it:

"A. Has violated international agreements and the Fourth Geneva Convention which prohibit the amendment or changing of laws which prevailed on the eve of the occupation. This amendment is another step by the occupation authorities to incorporate the occupied territories and impose their dominance over them.

"B. Linking the universities and higher institutes to the Israeli education officer is to be considered a blatant transgression against the academic freedoms and sanctity of the universities. It is well known in all countries of the world that universities arise and grow independent of any intervention from any party, that these universities generally exercise their academic freedoms without supervision or intervention by anyone, and that the only bodies which supervise them are their academic senates, which the board of trustees cooperates with in a consultative, guidance capacity.

"C. This amendment gives the Israeli education officer the right to isolate or prevent the appointment of university professors and employees. This in turn is another uncouth intervention in the academic freedom of the universities and is not permitted by any legislation.

"It is widely known that university professors must enjoy absolute academic freedom and it is forbidden to impose any body upon them. Removal and appointment decisions are conferred only on the academic senates of universities; for an education officer to resort to this system means hiding behind the broad shield of Israeli security to practice intellectual terror against the professors in the university and deprive it of experts and competent persons. The occupation will resort to this weapon to punish the universities for positions that do not please it. That will consequently lead to forcing these competent persons to emigrate and applying the policy of evacuation.

"D. Linking the universities to the education officer will give him the right, as it did in the schools, to interfere in the instruction of curricula and the promulgation of teaching plans, which will by necessity remove these universities from the Arab educational goals which adhere to the great Arab heritage and civilization and from goals set out through the study of other human civilizations to transfer knowledge and progress to the scions of the Palestinian people. The education officer will resort, as he did in the schools, to proscribing hundreds of books and preventing them from being used in the universities, and that will deprive these universities of their most sacred possessions, books of various intellectual sources and origins.

"E. The military governor has notified university presidents on the West Bank that he would prohibit them from accepting students from the Gaza Strip or areas occupied since 1948 or from making contracts with professors from these two areas except by special permission of the military governor.

This is an obvious repressive policy to prevent contact among the people of a single nation and gross interference in the internal affairs of the universities.

"F. The same governor notified university presidents that the acceptance of students who had been convicted for security or administrative reasons would be subject to the agreement of the education officer alone. This would mean depriving the cream of the scions of our people, who voluntarily gave years of their lives as a sacrifice to the nation in the terrible prisons of the Zionist occupation, of their natural right to receive an education in their national institutions, which were established to serve all the members of the people. This will also give the education officer himself the right to demand that the universities terminate anyone engaging in activities against the occupation. That is another devious aim which has the goal of evacuating the universities of fighting men and limiting their activities of fighting against the occupation.

"G. The amended law considers that the existing universities have acquired a new permit. That will expose these universities to the penalty of closure--now in the name of the law. This is in contradiction to the existence of these universities, which, over the past years, have proved their permanence and their effectiveness, enabling them to obtain international recognition.

"H. Application of the amended law means abrogating the role of the universities in one form or another and turning them into educational institutions subject to the direct dominance of Israeli military rule. This is another application of autonomy. The occupation, without incurring any material cost, will directly supervise these universities.

"What is the occupation's objective in this amendment, and why has it started applying it now?

"It is well known that the universities and higher institutes in the West Bank have in recent years been turned into advanced points of collision against the Israeli occupation and they have played an effective role in challenging the autonomy schemes, the Camp David conspiracy, settlement, and brutal Zionist terror.

"During the years of occupation, these universities have been exposed to intrusions by the Israeli army, the detention of professors and students, their beating and shooting, and the killing of some of them. The occupation authorities have also imposed, and are imposing, obstacles in the way of the acquisition of new professors, provision of the necessary laboratories and equipment, and so forth.

"In addition, as a result of the failure of their plans to impose autonomy on the inhabitants of the occupied territories, the occupation authorities in the past months have, thanks to the firm, heroic resistance of the scions

of our Palestinian people in the occupied areas, escalated their techniques of repression against our people. They have banished mayors, committed aggressions against Bassam Shak'ah, Karim Khalaf, and Ibrahim Tawil, prevented the mayors from performing any activity, and prevented and prohibited any activity by national institutions in the occupied territories. Now the universities' turn has come to be thwarted and prevented from continuing to perform their pioneering role. They have amended this law and imposed what we have already referred to. Through this, they intend to pull the thorns of this role and make it yield."

What Is Needed To Stand up to the Scheme

There is no doubt that the basic role in standing up to this terrible scheme lies on the shoulder of our universities and institutes in the occupied areas and the national institutions there. The Executive Committee of the Council of Higher Education on the occupied territories has issued a statement rejecting the amendment to the law and demanding that it be abrogated. The universities and unions of employees and instructors in the universities and higher institutions (al-Najah and Bir Zayt branches) have issued statements condemning the illegal amendments issued by the military governor.

However, we cannot leave the task of standing up to these schemes on the shoulders of the universities and institutions of the occupied areas alone; the Federation of Arab Universities and universities and institutions of higher learning in the Arab countries are requested to assume the task of defending academic freedoms in the universities and institutes in the occupied areas and to present their just cause in all international contexts, including the Unesco organization, the United Nations, and the International Federation of Universities, in order to stop the intellectual terrorism which the military authorities are pursuing against educational institutions in the occupied areas.

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PALESTINIAN CALLS FOR RADICALIZATION OF POLITICAL CLIMATE

Damascus SAWT FALASTIN in Arabic Aug 80 pp 20-22

[Article by Ibrahim al-Rahib: "Lest We Put Our Heads in the Sand, Like Ostriches--The Palestinian Revolution and the National Revolution"]

[Text] The Palestine National Congress will meet at the end of August, in order to bring about national unity of the various elements of the resistance within the framework of the Liberation Organization, to discuss and hold to account the Executive Committee for all it has accomplished in the framework of political action and organizational and military plans in accordance with the recommendations and resolutions of the last National Congress, and to evaluate new developments on the international, Arab and Palestinian stage. Proceeding from this complex of issues, it has been necessary to set forth all views related to these basic matters with the aim of helping develop our struggles and criticizing some negative aspects which have accompanied the national action during the current phase.

On the Issue of National Unity

Since the Palestine Liberation Organization emerged, in spite of the transformation which has occurred in its situation, its base and command, the group of leaders who have held responsibility have not been able to crystallize and lead the national unity plan, although the nature of the struggle we are engaged in does not pose an obstacle to the achievement of this plan. It is a national liberation struggle in which all classes of the Palestinian Arab people are in agreement except for a minority which has tied itself to the adversary's camp--a minority which our people have been able to expose and lay bare, to the point where Israel has declared that it has not been able to come up with even a small number of people to deal with concerning the autonomy plan. The reason national unity has not been attained may be ascribed to the absence of a real major organization leading the people of Palestine, which alone will be able to lead this kind of historic achievement, and to attempts at organizational self-advancement at the expense of the national cause.

The lack of objective democratic dialogue and evaluation of every stage of political action has been another cause obstructing the national unity plan. The Palestinian arena has witnessed an intense struggle in this context since the glorious October 1973 war.

The Palestinian national unity which must be achieved is not a formal unity but a unity founded on clear military, organizational and political foundations. Its final goal is the liberation of Palestine, and any unity outside this context will remain illusory and tentative. At the same time, national unity demands the formation of real collective leadership bringing all detachments together, provided that this command commit itself to the essence of the National Congress resolutions.

National unity requires that all organizations be granted the same material and moral opportunities to develop their action. This does not mean absolute equality among various detachments, but it does mean mobilizing all powers and giving them real resources to serve our people's struggle. It is not permissible for ideological differences to constitute an obstacle to granting just equitable support to all organizations. In this stage the central enemy is imperialism, zionism and reaction. This powerful enemy, with its resources, demands that we open the gates wide to all fighting men without exception.

The Palestine Liberation Army and some Palestinian organizations must not remain outside the scope of national unity. Reality and the nature of the stage we are passing through make this mandatory.

National unity means that all Palestinian organizations will participate in fair proportions in all base and command institutions of the Liberation Organization; it is not permissible that the organization's institutions be left to one detachment to the exclusion of another.

National unity means the mobilization of all the masses' powers in the struggle and the placing of a limit on all errors and privileges which constitute a barrier between the masses and the organization.

National unity means "let a hundred flowers bloom."

A Stock-Taking Position

Revolution means, specifically, commitment and practice, the combination of theory and application; resolutions which contain revolutionary sentences without applying some, or just capriciously applying them, are the same as no resolutions. In this context we do not want to repeat former criticisms and stories; we only want to mention, and perhaps the mention will be of benefit. What is needed is the following specifically:

Holding to account everyone who has made certain statements which infringe on the essence of our national struggle under the pretext of the need to

win world public opinion over through moderate positions. We are not beggars; rather, we are people with rights and a homeland which are not in any way subject to argument and controversy.

Taking to account every body which has constituted an obstacle to support for the Palestine National Front within the occupied territories and has refused to participate in it, because this has been one of the resolutions of the Palestine National Congress. On this occasion it is necessary that we point out that parties inside the occupied territories which have committed themselves to the National Front sent more than one memorandum to the Liberation Organization command asking it for more support, and the response was negative.

Taking to account the manner in which a basic portion of support and perseverance funds for the struggle of the Arabs in the occupied territories has been spent. This portion has been disbursed to some proteges, cronies and persons who are the enemies of the Liberation Organization and the Palestinian people's revolution. These sums were disbursed at a time when the national commanders of municipalities were complaining of the scarcity of resources at their disposal. We state bluntly that there are now people in the occupied territories who are rich as a result of the material resources which have reached them, but they have had no contact with true revolutionary action.

What we are presenting in this list is partial but not complete.

The Palestine National Congress is requested to make an absolute decision in the international context on three major issues:

1. That the United States of America is the basic, central enemy of the Arab liberation movement. All the experiences of peoples have proved that American imperialism will fight with all its resources and those of its agents for its privileges in the Arab area, and Israel is one American military base which performs a basic feature of this task. In brief, what is required is that we liberate ourselves from the mentality of illusions, superstitions and middle-of-the-road thinking in our view of the nature and the role of the United States in the region. The issue is as clear as the sun.

2. The struggle between the European countries and the United States, whose severity rises at times and falls at other times, is aimed only at putting pressure on the United States for the sake of better distributing the pillage in the area among all parties of the imperialist camp during this stage, now that the European countries have grown politically, economically and militarily in the stage following the Second World War and the United States, as a result of confronting the revolutions of peoples in various areas of the world, has become weak. At the same time, if we assume for the sake of argument that Europe is able to adopt an independent initiative (which is far removed from the current situation),

this initiative in essence is an imperialist one because they are capitalist monopolistic regimes and politics is a true reflection of the economic system of every country in the world.

3. The Soviet Union, the entire Socialist system and the truly liberated nonaligned countries are the natural firm ally of the Palestine national liberation movement.

4. Our relations in the imperialist countries must be concentrated on the real popular organizations and forces existing there, because these forces are our true allies and because they are part of the process of revolutionary change which will take place in these countries.

On the Arab Situation

The perseverance and steadfastness states have faced further domestic and foreign conspiracies to shift their positions of principle toward the Israeli entity, in order to weaken them and push the Camp David conspiracy through. Syria has witnessed a series of reactionary factional movements, supported by Arab reaction and imperialism, and Algeria has also witnessed tribal movements, under the guise of Berber culture, aimed at moving its national entity and thwarting its role of supporting Arab and international liberation movements. In addition, South Yemen has also witnessed the formation of a reactionary front hostile to the revolution under the leadership of al-Sadat and his regime through apostate groups which have lapsed from the path of true revolution, and this has been the situation as regards Libya.

Some Arab countries standing between the perseverance and steadfastness front and its clear positions, and al-Sadat's capitulationist camp, have started an attempt aimed at promoting the European initiative, in order to justify some of their steps along the road to surrender. The response of the perseverance and steadfastness camp and the resistance movement, with most of its detachments, to this initiative, and their rejection of it, have played a prominent part in stopping the process of sliding toward capitulation; the lack of clarity of the European initiative itself has played a role in this context. Those who applauded the European initiative found themselves applauding Camp David. The coming days will be replete with surprises and shifts, negative and positive, which is what we must be on our guard against as regards the countries standing between the perseverance camp and al-Sadat's camp.

Arab attempts have been made, under brilliant national slogans, to split up the perseverance and steadfastness front; these attempts have failed, but at the same time the role of some Arab bodies in assaulting the Iranian revolution from within and without has grown.

The United States has consolidated Egypt's military role in an obvious fashion in order to repress the Arab liberation movement. The Egyptian

concentrations along Libya's borders and the takeoff of American planes bringing the American raiders to Iran are only some items of material proof of that.

Some Arab bodies have supported the process of conspiring against Syria through training, arms and financing, because Syria constitutes a basic citadel in the current stage in the face of the plot which is aimed at consecrating Israeli occupation of the land and of man.

To achieve a strategic balance with the enemy, Syria has propounded the improvement of relations with the Soviet Union.

In the Palestinian Situation.

The Palestinian situation has experienced a continued Israeli policy of repression domestically and abroad, the confiscation of more land and water, the construction of settlements, and the intensified expansion of the number of settlements on the bank, the strip and Golan. This stage has also witnessed a serious escalation of armed action against the occupation, rejection of the autonomy plot, and rejection of the European initiative because it does not achieve some of our people's aspirations and because it is part of the ludicrous political melodrama which is aimed at deceiving our people.

What Is Our Conclusion?

The Palestine National Congress must realize a single fact, which is development and maturation of a military, economic and political strategy founded on one basis--"either us or them". Every vision outside this framework is a childish one aimed at making justifications in the best of cases. Victories will be achieved by the forearms of our people and our Arab nation, through its true revolutionary vanguards, and we must not put our heads in the sand.

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BRIGADIER GENERAL SA'D SAYIL INTERVIEWED

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Aug 80 p 11

[Interview With Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil; "Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil on Palestinian Revolution's Military Action and Its Spheres of Development; Palestinian National Council Focuses on Merger Military Unity; We Are Doing What We Can to Avoid Striking Innocent, If There Are Any; Iranian Revolution Has Brought About Strategic Change in Favor of Arabs and I Am Surprised That Some Arab Forces Face It With Such Hostility"]

[Text] Since joining the Palestinian revolution's military forces in September 1970, Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil, alias Abu-al-Walid, has assumed prominent positions of military responsibility. He commanded al-Yarmuk Brigade and was then appointed chief of the central joint military operations chamber in Lebanon. He has also held the position of secretary of the revolution forces general command. In June 1980, Brigadier General Sayil was elected by Fatah's fourth general congress to the membership of Fatah's Central Committee and the membership of al-'Anifah forces general command.

Before joining the Palestinian revolution forces, Brigadier General Sayil was an officer in the Jordanian army which he joined in 1951 after completing his high school studies in Nabulus. He has studied in Jordanian military institutes and in a number of other Arab countries. He then attended specialization courses in Britain and in the United States. In the latter, he completed his studies in the Military Staff College. In the Jordanian army, he assumed several military positions, including the position of commander of the engineering unit of an infantry division and commander of an infantry brigade--the position he left when he joined the revolution forces.

The magazine SHU'UN FILASTINIYAH [Palestinian Affairs] conducted an interview with him last June and will publish this interview in its edition today. In coordination with SHU'UN FILASTINIYAH, AL-SAFIR publishes here excerpts of the interview.

[Question] Critics of the Palestinian revolution censure it for the fact that its operations at home [in occupied Palestinian territories] are aimed

against civilians. Despite the varying motives behind the criticism, it remains true that a number of operations have been aimed against civilians. It also remains true that this creates political problems for the revolution in its international relations and provides substance for hostile propaganda. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Answer] Any fair military or political observer cannot, in many cases, distinguish between what is military and what is civilian in Israel. The difference between the two is very weak, especially when we learn that in this regard Israel has an almost unique situation in the world. This fact must be present and clear to the mind when our operations are assessed.

Second, contrary to the exaggerated hostile propaganda that seeks to undermine the revolution's reputation, we are eager not to harm innocent civilians. I have the honor to say that the instructions given for any of the Palestinian revolution's operations contain frank provisions on avoiding any harm to old men, women and children. It has become known now that the old men, women and children killed in some of the operations were killed by the bullets of the Israeli army itself in its confrontation against the Palestinian revolutionaries.

Third, we face a situation in which the enemy, with its equipment and its official agencies, strikes our civilians openly, in broad daylight and with premeditation and planning. The enemy is doing this within the framework of a large-scale annihilation campaign for which enormous resources are available. So can we stand idle in the face of such criminality? This question is important, isn't it?

[Question] In Israel, a distinction can be made between two types of civilians: A type that is not different from the army and that includes the civilians who perform semi-military operations and the settlers who usurp the land and build their settlements on it and another type that does not interfere directly in such actions. Nobody disputes the legality of the actions aimed at warning the usurpers. However, the others can be avoided.

[Answer] We do our best to avoid the innocent, if they are found. Our fighters are fully aware of this. However, in the turmoil of war and because of the nature of war, civilians cannot be completely avoided, even when they are innocent. There has been no war from whose consequences civilians have not suffered. I am talking about that which we cannot prevent in our operations against the enemy. As for taking aim at the civilians as such, I believe that this is something wrong that we try hard to avoid. I expect the matter to become more clearly tangible to the entire world in the future.

[Question] Do you think that the results achieved by the armed resistance in the occupied territories are compatible with the available resources and with the enormous readiness of the Palestinian fighters to sacrifice?

[Answer] I have already said that many will be surprised by the qualitative step that we will realize in our military operations. I expect this step to materialize in the near future, without underestimating the difficulties that we face. It is a step that will include a change in the kind of targets and in the method of the operations. With this, we will crown the experiences and the sacrifices that have accumulated throughout the past years. Meanwhile, I will admit that our operations have developed slowly in these years. Matters had to proceed gradually and normally from one phase to a more advanced phase.

[Question] This leads us to a more general question. The popular atmosphere in the occupied homeland shows maximum readiness for sacrifice and a high national spirit. The people have confronted the occupation troops with stones. This means that if more effective weapons were available to them, the local atmosphere would be ready for a comprehensive armed uprising. Do you think that the silence of some Arab sides and the negative attitudes of others are obstructing a comprehensive armed uprising in the occupied territories?

[Answer] This constitutes the main reason or the strategic factor, and not just one of the reasons. The closure and silence of the Arab borders are the fundamental factor. If these borders were opened and if the fronts were stirred up, we would achieve what every Arab citizen aspires for and the revolution's military operations would move to advanced stages rapidly. When I speak of the difficulties facing us, I do not confine them to the difficulties created by the Israeli enemy. What I want to make clear is: We are facing non-Israeli difficulties, including closure of the Arab borders in the face of our fighters. If this issue is solved and if integration is realized among all the Arab countries, we will provide a strategic factor for the triumph of the revolution, especially since the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in which we participate is open to all the willing Arab countries. In its present condition, and even if it attains an ideal position, the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front controls no more than 10 percent of the borders. This is in addition to the fact that the borders it controls are not connected with the densely populated Arab areas in our occupied homeland. This requires other Arab countries to join this front, particularly Jordan because its accession will open big spheres.

[Question] Is there grounds for the hope that Jordan will join the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and will adopt its goals?

[Answer] Insofar as Jordan is concerned, matters are proceeding very slowly. I hope Jordan will join the front because its accession will strengthen the Arab confrontation. But I cannot say that this will be accomplished or realized imminently, especially since there are fears that Jordan will join the Camp David line. These fears are justified, even though the Jordanian officials continue to make successive assurances and declarations. Perhaps it is useful to note that Israel's intransigence and actions provide automatic and convincing proofs of Israel's goals and the nature of the Zionist

movement and what this movement harbors for the entire Arab nation. All this can only be faced with confrontation. The Palestinian revolution has chosen the instrument of armed struggle. The others can be convinced that this instrument is the most successful and is the only instrument capable of confronting the Israeli intransigence.

[Question] Don't you think that what has happened in Egypt on the hands of al-Sadat regime constitutes a warning of what may happen in other Arab countries?

[Answer] We should not allow caution to prevent us from struggling. There is no doubt that what has happened in Egypt constitutes an enormous loss, not just a warning. However, we do not ignore the resources and capabilities of the Egyptian people who, I think, are not pleased with what has happened. Consequently, the Egyptian people are not pleased with the alienation imposed on them by the regime toward their Arab brethren. There are numerous good omens in the Egyptian opposition that has emerged recently. I believe that the Egyptian people will sooner or later restore their natural position in the Arab nation. Under all circumstances, we must work ceaselessly to create a state of Arab detente and integration in order to confront the Zionist enemy.

[Question] Do you think that the actual course of the Palestinian relations with Jordan serves this goal?

[Answer] Our talks with Jordan are proceeding slowly. It is noticed that Jordan wants to coordinate with us at the international level but that it refrains from such coordination at the level of the domestic Jordanian arena. There are things which we hope will be carried out, especially those on which agreement had already been reached and which have not been carried out yet--including, for example, increasing the size of the Palestinian Liberation Army in Jordan. Matters are proceeding hopefully but slowly, as I have already pointed out.

[Question] How does the issue of the Palestinian national unity and its developments reflect on the revolution's military action?

[Answer] It is my belief that the work of the forthcoming session of the Palestinian National Council will focus on this issue, especially since the council's previous sessions have stressed its essentiality. I also believe that we will realize in the next session a more advanced position in the direction of national unity. Military unity is what crystallizes the results of strengthened national unity. It has been possible so far to realize a number of unifying frameworks on the Palestinian arena, especially in the military sphere. These frameworks tend toward unification. We have, for example, the Supreme Military Council which forms the framework for a supreme military command and in which all the Palestinian organizations are represented. There is also the joint command which directs the joint daily military action. Our brothers in the Lebanese National

Movement and Pan-Arab [al-qawmiyah] Front participate in this command. There are other frameworks that form a nucleus for completing the military unity. Many of the agencies, especially the administrative agencies, are ready for unification. I believe firmly that the forthcoming National Council session will crystallize this issue and will open the way for a merger military unity. I hope this will happen because the lack of national unity causes the loss of many scattered efforts, especially in the military sphere. If the efforts are united, we will attain a much better standard.

[Question] Do you think that the conviction as to the error of the presence of many decision-making and executive circles exists by the same degree among all?

[Answer] I believe that the conviction exists among all. I hope that we have reached the phase of complete maturity. I stress that there is a feeling among all the factions that national unity must be attained.

[Question] How can the political, financial and organizational problems be solved, how can talk of the fear of domination by the major organization [Fatah] be eliminated and how can the influences of the foreign circles on the Palestinian arena be removed?

[Answer] Regarding the political position, the PLO political program presented to the latest session of the National Council represents a base for the unity of this position. I do not imagine that there is disagreement on this program. This is comforting. Concerning the financial matters, the latest Arab summit held in Baghdad has offered very big facilities that enable all the factions to be financed by the Palestinian National Fund--the PLO Fund. There may be fears regarding the issue of domination and perhaps some factions fear domination by Fatah. However, I imagine that the factions are convinced that Fatah represents not only the vanguard but also the major sector of the Palestinian people. Fatah includes Palestinians with different political backgrounds, both partisan and nonpartisan. There isn't in Fatah or in its leadership anybody who thinks of the question of domination on the Palestinian arena. The experiences that we have gone through side by side with the other factions have proven that Fatah is not seeking domination. Fatah, because of its size, may want the major share and the other factions approve this. Fatah shoulders very heavy responsibilities. It is the one that shoulders the major burden of the big responsibilities, whether in combat, in spending or in the political efforts. This is felt and is well known. We in Fatah are eager to spread reassurance throughout the Palestinian arena. The question of domination is out of the picture.

[Question] We notice that in addition to the U.S. political and economic influence, the U.S. military presence in the Middle East is also escalating. What is your visualization of the impact of this presence on the Palestinian revolution's action?

[Answer] The U.S. position is becoming clearer and more evident to us, especially with the escalating military presence in the Gulf area. It is my belief that several Gulf countries are committing a big mistake in the issue of giving facilities to the U.S. forces. How can somebody be concerned with the Gulf security and then invite the U.S. forces to enter and be present in the area?

The presence of the U.S. forces will tempt the forces of other major powers to enter. The chances of conflict will intensify and the area may reach the stage of open military conflict and may become open to all. It is well known that there are relations of friendship binding certain states in the Middle East with a state such as the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union cannot permit the United States to have a free hand [istibahah] in the area and this will, consequently, open the door for major military conflicts. I do not think that reaching this state would be in the interest of any of the area's countries and it is not in the interest of the Palestinian cause.

[Question] How does the triumph of the Iranian revolution affect the military aspect of the conflict map?

[Answer] The United States used to rely on two powers in the area: Israel and Iran. The two were entrusted with protecting the vital U.S. interests in the area. Whoever familiarizes himself with the armament and the military resources that existed in Iran in the shah's era becomes aware of this fact. This is why the Iranian revolution's triumph has introduced a strategic change. The balances of power in the area have changed insofar as the United States is concerned. This is why the struggle is intensifying to drag Iran backward. The problems sweeping Iran are being fanned within this framework. I believe that a better atmosphere must be created between Iran and the Arab area and that stability must be achieved inside Iran itself so that it may become strong because its strength is in the interest of the area's liberation movements, especially the Arab movements. I am surprised by some Arab forces which confront the Iranian revolution with such hostility. I believe that there is a struggle over the question of where Iran stands. We want a strong Iran that supports the Arab liberation movements. We are playing a role to create a state of good neighborliness between Iran and the Arab states. The Arab response is still slow and there are pending issues. But we are proceeding in this direction.

As for our military relations with Iran, they are, like the relations in all the other spheres, growing and they will witness many developments in the near future.

[Question] Briefly, what are the foundations of the combat doctrine of the Palestinian revolution forces?

[Answer] Our creed is clear and is based on liberation. The foundations of this creed are liberation of the Palestinian soil. Our theory is based on the need to liberate the land.

SYRIA SEEKS INCREASED TRADE WITH KUWAIT

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 28 Jun 80 p 51

[Article: "Syrians Are Trying to Regain What They Have Lost in Gulf Market: Syrian Products Fair in Kuwait in Preparation for Setting Up Permanent Trade Center"]

[Text] Can the Syrian industrial and handicraft products apportion themselves a bigger share of the Kuwaiti market than they now have?

Both Kuwaiti and Syrian sources answer this question affirmatively. The answer to the question came on the peripheries of the talks held by a Syrian delegation in Kuwait last May. The delegation concluded its talks with the Kuwaiti minister of industry and trade and with the director of the Kuwaiti Fairs Company with an agreement to set up a special 15-day Syrian products fair in Kuwait, beginning on first of next December.

This conviction which has developed in the mind of the Syrian delegation and of its two Kuwaiti hosts is based on several facts. The first of these facts, according to Husayn al-Zu'bi, the head of the Syrian delegation to the talks on the agreement to set up the fair, is that Syrian products used to hold a prominent position in the Kuwaiti commercial market. This position has declined in recent years but there is nothing to prevent its renewed expansion.

The decline of the Syrian products in the Kuwaiti market is due fundamentally to the free economy system adopted in Kuwait--a system which subjects Kuwait's trade to the law of supply and demand and attracts goods from all parts of the world to compete on the strength of their specifications and their prices. This decline is not due to a deterioration in the qualities of the Syrian production but due to a lack of efforts to introduce and market this production. "The Syrian business men working in Kuwait, says al-Zu'bi, assert that there is a lack of knowledge in Kuwait regarding the industrial developments in Syria and regarding the Syrian goods that may be in demand in Kuwait and that familiarization with these developments can lead to marketing these goods." No single side is responsible for this situation.

Kuwait and Syria have a specific trade agreement that stipulates that a joint committee of the two countries meet once a year to discuss the progress in implementing the agreement and the problems facing it. Even though 5 years have passed since the conclusion of the agreement, the committee has not met yet. Perhaps this reality explains the complaint of some Syrian exporters, as the exporters say, regarding the customs fees to which some Syrian products exported to Kuwait are subjected and regarding the lack of the facilities necessary for the Syrian products to enter Kuwaiti market and be sold there.

From this angle, if the Syrian products fair in Kuwait is a lively and appropriate means to begin wide-scale familiarization with these products in the Kuwaiti market, then the talks held by the Syrian delegation for the aim of setting up the fair have alerted both sides to the error of not convening the joint committee called for by the trade agreement between the two countries. The talks have also put both sides on the way to deal with this error through their agreement to summon this committee to hold a special meeting in the near future to discuss all the issues concerning the provisions and implementation of the trade agreement and leading to facilitating entry of the Syrian products to Kuwait.

The results of the talks did not stop at this limit but went beyond to an agreement to have the Kuwaiti minister of commerce and industry head his country's delegation to the seventh International Damascus Fair which will be held from 20 August to 8 September 1980. Dr Husayn al-Qadi, the Syrian minister of industry, will then visit Kuwait in November 1980 to hold various negotiations on the possibilities of investing Kuwaiti capital in Syrian projects, especially in the tourism sector, and to spur Kuwaiti tourism to Syria.

But what will Syria exhibit in Kuwait?

Generally, the Syrian fair will include products by the public and private sector firms and craftsmen's products. If the information made available to the Syrian delegation by the Kuwaiti sources and by the Syrian businessmen working in Kuwait indicates that textiles, underwear, shoes, glass products and some food products top the kinds of products that are likely to find demand in the Kuwaiti market, then this same information has urged Husayn al-Zu'bi, the head of the Syrian delegation, to draw the attention of all those wishing to participate in the fair to take into consideration high quality, flawlessness and good packaging of the units selected for display as necessary conditions for the success of the fair and for attracting the Kuwaiti merchants toward Syrian goods, considering that the Kuwaiti market abounds with high-quality goods from various sources. Moreover, the information has urged al-Zu'bi to warn as of this moment that success in exporting to Kuwait requires abidance by the delivery dates and, consequently, by shipment conditions and schedules.

Another time: Can the Syrian industrial and handicraft products enlarge their share of the Kuwaiti market?

The answer this time depends on what the Syrian exporters from both the public and private sectors will do in the forthcoming fair. There is no doubt that these exporters will exert adequate efforts for success, not only to win a bigger share of the Kuwaiti market but also to win a bigger share of the Gulf market because the Kuwaiti importers import not for Kuwait only but also through Kuwait for the entire Gulf area, considering that Kuwait is a regional commercial station in the area. Success in the expected fair may constitute a good start to take up a suggestion which the Syrian delegation heard from the Syrians working in Kuwait who have drawn the attention of this delegation to the need to set up a permanent trade center for Syrian products in Kuwait similar to the trade centers set up by other countries in Kuwait--centers which constitute a permanent point of communication between the export possibilities of each state and the Kuwaiti market needs.

8494

CSO: 4802

PLO SPOKESMAN DISCUSSES ISLAMIC MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN AMMAN

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jul 80 p 19

[Text] Amman--Mr 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu-Mayzar, official spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization, said that the convening of the Islamic States' Foreign Ministers' Conference in Amman has taken on a special importance.

Abu-Mayzar told AL-DUSTUR that the PLO has prepared a draft resolution which is under consultation by the members of the Islamic Conference, and that it will be crystallized in its final form after these deliberations.

He said: "The Palestinian delegation will present a working paper and a number of documents and studies which deal with the general situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, and the difficult and grim circumstances facing our people."

He said: "The conference convened at the request of brother Yassir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in order to discuss and confront the dangerous developments being witnessed by occupied Palestine. It will seek to confirm Arab Islamic solidarity and its absolute adherence to the heroic struggle of our people in the occupied nation."

Appraising the activities of the Arab Foreign Ministers' Conference, he said: "The political document issued by the Amman conference constitutes one of the most important Arab documents issued in recent years. Furthermore, the conference's rejection of security council resolution 242, calling it a resolution which does not come to terms with the rights of the Arab nation, especially with regard to the Palestinian problem. This is considered one of the most important achievements of the conference. It is a unanimous Arab blow to the principles of the Camp David accords, and is considered a response to the United States and some European states who still cling to that resolution."

Abu-Mayzar said that the Amman paper encompassed important political issues and that the unified Arab stand recorded in this document concerning these important issues will produce great positive effect that will go beyond the Arab region and will be felt on an international level.

Mr Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the PLO's Political Office, said that the Palestinian delegation, in a statement, detailed the oppressive measures taken by the Israeli occupation forces and the terrorist acts it has perpetrated against our struggling Palestinian people.

He said: "We want this conference to produce permanent and well-defined resolutions and measures in order to confront the terrorist, oppressive campaign which is being launched by the Zionist energy within our occupied land, to extend support and aid to our people."

9310

CSO: 4802

JOURNALIST DESCRIBES SOVIET IMPASSE IN AFGHAN WAR

Munich SUEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 26 Aug-5 Sep 80

[Article by correspondent Olaf Ihlau]

[26 Aug 80, p 3]

[Text] The Stillbirth of the Godless Devils

Kabul, in August--"You had better not drive up there any further; up above are the Russians with their cursed tanks," a fantastically decked out fruit dealer shouts at us in warning as he comes down the mountain trail on the double, dragging after him a donkey laden with two sacks of Paradise apples. The red-brown sandy path is torn up by tank-track marks, which lead the shady avenue uphill past abandoned summer villas. Through the treetops, the karstic massif of the Paghman mountain range shimmers grey-blue.

It is a splendid summer day. Normally, it ought to be just swarming with visitors to the groves and parks of the Paghman Health Resort, which had been built in the 1920's by the reformer king Amanullah as an excursion resort and refuge for the well-heeled residents of the hot valley basin of Kabul. But nothing has been normal any more in the heartland of Asia for a long time now. Even last summer, when the Russians in Afghanistan were not yet presenting themselves as occupiers, but only as "advisers," the gardens and palaces of Paghman had lain there deserted and barricaded. Because this mountain hideaway just under 20 kilometers outside the capital had been occupied several times by Moslem insurgents and subsequently recaptured by government soldiers.

A magnificent summer day--and a Sunday, a week after which certain Western news agencies out of Delhi will announce, with reference to "reports of travelers," that the Soviets had killed more than 300 people with retaliatory bombings in Paghman and had forced thousands more to flee in the direction of Kabul. A piece of scare news, at all events with respect to such embellishing and proportioning, as is most of what has been coming out of this mountainous region in the Hindu Kush in the way of front-line reports for months now. We encounter no refugees either on the trip out to Paghman via the southern route or on the way

back past Kharga Lake. In the village itself we see no bodies, no traces of fighting, not one destroyed house. The only things of note are that three Soviet armored personnel carriers are drawn up in front of the town hall, and below the "Red Mosque" at the side of the street a taxi lies riddled by bullets. In this black Mercedes had sat three local functionaries of the Babrak Karmal regime who had been shot in an ambush of the Moslem rebels 2 days before. Later, a news agency converts this incident into 30 dead Afghan soldiers.

This assault had called the Soviets to the scene. They had moved up with three dozen tanks and armored personnel carriers, had posted themselves in a semicircle above the health resort, and had fired into the mountains. Apparently rather indiscriminately. Then their initial deployment had been supported further by a flight of helicopters of the type MI-24 D-- those missile helicopters with a moose-like nose which so far are still the most effective weapon of the Russians against the Afghan fighters of their religious war. These death-dealing dragonflies had "dropped something small," reported an eyewitness, "and then there was a wall of flame 20 to 30 meters wide." On the basis of such observations, Western diplomats in Kabul conjecture that bombs containing a phosphoric incendiary substance were probably employed there. These suppositions conform to the impression that the Soviets are now responding to every pinprick of the guerrillas with counterstrikes in overkill proportions, in their present effort to surround the capital with a cordon sanitaire for the protection of their protege's regime.

One might interpret such overreactions as a consequence of the failure of Moscow's former military tactics, which were if anything bent on restraint. Because at the beginning of the ninth month of their Afghanistan occupation, the "Godless devils"--as the warriors of Allah call the invaders from the north--quite obviously are facing a military as well as a political stillbirth. Neither has the Kremlin managed to install a stable government with Babrak Karmal and at least to win over an appreciable portion of the population, nor has the morale of the mujahidin been broken. With its own increasing losses of men and materiel, for the eastern superpower the Afghanistan military venture has become a commitment full of setbacks. The military resistance of the guerrillas is proving to be more durable than was expected by the Russians; it has not slackened despite considerable losses among the civilian population. In meetings with Western and non-aligned diplomats, members of Eastern embassies have conveyed the impression recently that "Misha" no longer exactly knows in what direction he should turn: The Soviets, it is said, have reached an impasse militarily, and politically they are at a dead end. An early stability can scarcely be expected in Afghanistan; on the contrary--the war of attrition could last another 1 or 2 years "before gradually a new structure grows out of the ashes of the present period."

There is booming, buzzing, and rumbling without letup over Kabul. The explosions on the mountain ridge near the civilian airport ostensibly serve the purpose of laying out underground ammunition depots and rocket

emplacements. Within a week, since the beginning of July, a new, enormous military camp has arisen beside the runway of the airfield--a camp which contains around 9,000 soldiers and which now forms the operational base for all the flight operations of the Soviets within the greater Kabul area. It takes our Ix-10 of the Afghan airline company Ariana 22 minutes following its landing, before like a timid foreigner it has wheeled past large Antonov transport aircraft, MiG jets, and spinning helicopter squadrons with empty rocket launchers to the parking position in front of the main building. The Russians are making no secret of the fact that Kabul's airport is under their control alone.

In the Stays of the Watchdogs

And moreover, this is also true of everything that in any way has importance in Afghanistan's capital. The key ministries have been laced tight in a corner of Soviet watchdogs, and in the most important agencies and at Radio Afghanistan, Soviet security people are keeping vigil. The demoralized remnants of the Afghan army enjoy a special fraternal guardianship, and Babrak Karmal, the new leader of the revolution imported 9 months ago with Moscow's military intervention, is practically a prisoner of his patrons. "He is not allowed to go alone even to the bathroom without his Russian guards," says a disillusioned Afghan party politician who occasionally obtains access to the strictly guarded complex around the "House of the People," the former king's palace, in whose granite halls the present Viceroy of the Kremlin lives entrenched as if in a bunker.

A good 12,000 Soviet soldiers have drawn a ring around Kabul made up of dug-in tanks, antitank howitzers, and rocket emplacements. Under their guardianship, people's militiamen of the party--in fact, of the "Parcham" wing of Babrak Karmal--make a weapons search of every car and bus which wants to come into or go out of the city. "Chucha-e-Russ"--Russian puppies--the Afghans hiss contemptuously when the inspectors with their heavy machineguns are out of hearing. The often very young party cadres are virtually "surprised on call," in more danger even than any Soviet soldier. Because they are always being preyed upon not only by snipers of the milatidin, but also by the inner-party rivals belonging to the nationalist-oriented "Khaig" faction, according to the motto: "The Russians will be weak only when we in Afghanistan have exterminated the domestic Russians."

In organizing murder attempts against party functionaries, the anti-communist guerrillas seem to be able to chalk up one success after another to their credit. In the provinces, this selective extermination strategy has already crippled the administration and the educational system to a large extent. All of Karmal's avowed party-liners who can manage to do so remain in Kabul, that citadel which for the time being is still half-way safe. How hopeless for the regime the situation has grown outside in the countryside was hinted at a short time ago by Kabul's party secretary, Abdul Razmdacho, in a talk with Radio Moscow.

Razmdacho complained of the difficulties in the fighting against the "counterrevolution" and alleged: "The bandits are robbing the transport vehicles which bring in foodstuffs. They are burning down grain crops. At present, this is making it impossible to lower food prices. The enemies are murdering our party's activists, teachers, doctors, and farmers." And although Razmdacho then added very heroically that "we will not let ourselves be intimidated," nevertheless this assertion has little to do with a description of how things really are.

Wherever the Soviets cannot or do not want to be--and such areas amount to the more than 80 percent of impassable territory of this central-Asian mountainous country--either the mujadidin, apathy, or chaos holds sway. Of the about 30,000 soldiers of the Afghan army who remain in the barracks, at most only half are still considered to be combat-ready, and even here only to a limited extent. In combined operations the Soviets drive their Afghan comrades-in-arms ahead of themselves, to be on the safe side. If their columns fall into an ambush, the Russians remain near their tanks and vehicles, shoot into the mountains, and wait for air support, but seldom do they give chase to the attackers. Also, so far the Soviets have flown in no special troops of any kind, such as mountain infantrymen, for systematically combing out rebel hideouts. "Obviously, this conscript army which has been trained for battles over large land masses in the West and East is not geared to guerrilla fighting in a country of high mountains," say Western military experts when they make an initial summing up of Moscow's military entanglement in Afghanistan.

It has been calculated--by the Americans, naturally--that it is costing "Misha" about \$5 million dollars daily for his stay in the Hindu Kush. Supposing the rebels have been coming into possession of surface-to-air missiles, which for some weeks now has surely been happening more and more frequently, and if now and then they are shooting down one of the dreaded MI-24 helicopters, then if anything this sum would even be understated. Because a single one of these craft--at present they are probably the best equipped combat helicopters in the world--represents alone a value equivalent to about \$3 million.

It is as difficult as ever to estimate how great the losses in human lives are. The losses of the Soviets, who now have 110,000 men in the Hindu Kush, are likely to run into the thousands by this time. To be sure, the rumor that every night a plane leaves Kabul Airport with 25 Russian caskets aboard certainly springs from an Afghan pipe dream, but it is definitely true that here and there symptoms of demoralization are appearing and that the Soviet supreme command feels compelled to rapidly and regularly replace its troops in certain precarious localities. Western diplomats with experience from World War II are by no means surprised at this: "After all, it has been drummed into their heads that they are welcome as friends, and then they have to look into hate-filled faces everywhere, they have no time off, no diversions, not even a brothel. After all, they are only human."

The Soviet soldiers--they are just kids for the most part, many of them straw-blond, with likable faces. One sees them looking searchingly out of the windows of the trucks and armored trains which roll with supplies in endless convoys from the north toward Kabul. Many of the vehicles are carrying prefabricated parts for barracks. The bear is already preparing himself for the winter. Every 8 kilometers, alongside this most important connecting road of the Russians over the Salang Pass to Kabul, there is an entrenched sentry post with three or four tanks. Along the Paghman mountain range helicopters are patrolling.

I travel through the fertile Kam-i-Daman Valley up to Ietalif, a village some 50 kilometers from Kabul which clings picturesquely to the mountain foothills and has a park in which the great Babur, the Founder of the Indian Mogul dynasty, is said to have felt quite at home once. The diplomats in Kabul are not allowed to come here any more. Occasionally, the government and Russians risk inspection visits. Apart from that, Ietalif is possibly visited at various times by this or that mujahidin. At the bazaar, I am treated to grapes and peaches when it gets about where I hail from. The shopkeepers are all worked up about the leaflets dropped from helicopters the previous day, in which the help of the Soviet Union is extolled as an "act of God" and support for Babrak Karmal is called for. At the bazaar in Ietalif, the answer to this is: "Allah will exterminate the Russians and the Russian connies."

[29 (Vol. 80, p. 1)]

[Text: A Ruler Without Subjects]

Karmal, in August--is he sure, he still exists in radio addresses, in newspaper notices, and in messages of greeting. Now and then he receives an Eastern bloc diplomat, a hand-picked group of tribal elders, or a taciturn mullah. But for the people, whom he purports to represent, he has never yet been seen in the flesh in the 9 months of his regency. He cannot allow himself to make public appearances in Kabul, let alone a tour through the troubled country whose chief of state he claims to be: Babrak Karmal, Afghanistan's revolutionary ruler by the grace of Moscow, is protected and hidden away by his Russian patrons like an irreplaceable treasure.

The personal safety of the 51-year-old man is considered to be so endangered--especially after the recrudescence of inner-party score-settling--that at present the Soviet bodyguard does not let its ward out of the citadel-like complex around the "People's House" in central Kabul. In this former king's palace, at one time called the "Argh," the despot Mohammed Daud was killed by the revolutionary putschists in April 1978. Here, in late summer of the previous year the "great and wise leader" Taraki saw himself ousted by his "heroic pupil" Hafizullah Amin, who in turn lost his life 3 months later as a victim of the Soviet military intervention, although on the outside, in the chateau of Darulaman,

Prayers From the Bunker

At one time, Daoud used to drive around Kabul all alone and at breakneck speed in a middle-class car. Occasionally Taraki could be seen, only moderately guarded, going for a walk. Even the hated Amin was in the habit of scurrying about with only a relatively small escort, and if need be he was even his own, pistol-happy bodyguard. Such an unbridled freedom of movement is barred to Babrak Karmal. In order to protect him from being shot, the Russians have restricted his official activity to the "Argh" grounds, which they have closed off. Here, the sessions of the Revolutionary Council, cabinet meetings, and receptions take place, here there is a mobile clinic, a radio and television studio, as well as two escape helicopters in case of an emergency. Not only the guard detail but also the domestic and kitchen personnel are provided by the Russians. Karmal cannot even cough without their surveillance.

Nor pray, either. In any case, not where the devout Moslem people bow towards Mecca in one of the great Kabul mosques. At the close of the fasting month of Ramadan the leader of the revolution, accompanied by top military men, had to say his prayers in the mosque of his "Argh" stronghold. Babrak Karmal, who had had it proclaimed about himself that he wants "like the holy prophet Mohammed, to serve the welfare of the people as a humble believer," beseeched Allah for support "in the extermination of the enemies of the fatherland and the revolution," as well as for help "in bettering the condition of the working Moslems of Afghanistan." Thus it was reported the following day by the KABUL NEW TIMES and the evening color television broadcast, which showed a party leader who had become stout giving an awkward greeting, and praising the volunteers--who without exception are young and who are being sent into fire practically without any basic military training.

The creation of such "combat groups," which are to "tear apart the illegal network of the counter-revolution," had been decided on at the end of July by the party, which is giving highest priority to the fight against the rebels. With a detailed list of measures, all the party organizations and provincial administrations were instructed to recruit volunteers and "to complete the organizing of the forces fighting for the regime." This sounds like a calling out of the last reserves, and probably this is also what it is. Students, pupils, and teachers--the latter not being needed outside of Kabul in any case, because the village schools have been closed or burned down by the mujahidin--are being thrown into the battle carrying "banners of honor," in order to "open up the radiant path into the future for our country, against the savage force of imperialism and of reaction" (RADIO KABUL). However, the bunker regime has not been able to mobilize very many of these "fighting party heroes" so far. If one adds up all the figures which the KABUL NEW TIMES has given, there were no more than 340 of such people in 4 weeks. And this figure already includes the 100 mercenaries of Schinwari and Djadji

whom the regime--by exploiting the traditional rivalries between certain Pashtun tribes--had supplied with new guns and ammunition and had hired for an advance of 27,000 afghanis (about 1,200 marks) per participant for a mission in the Logar Valley. Babrak's predecessor in office, Amin, had already sought to pursue a "Tajification policy" by similar means.

"We want their heads, you can have their money and their women"--with such catchphrases one tribe was stirred up against the other. In the Logar Valley, things went awry. At the beginning of August, when two buses were moving up with the Pashtun mercenaries, these buses fell into a booby trap of the mujahidin near the site of Serh-ah ("Red Water"), and 42 people failed to survive this initial engagement. Meanwhile, the main burden in the fight against the Moslem guerrillas lies as much as ever with the Soviet military machinery, without whose assistance the Karmal regime--which if worst comes to worst can rely on only 7,500 loyal fighters--could not survive for 24 hours. Although many atrocity reports publicized in the West about massacres and extermination bombings are likely to be irresponsibly exaggerated--during a round trip 250 kilometers long around Kabul I see only three destroyed houses--yet surely these impressions are valid: That the Russians are striking increasingly harder, more indiscriminately, and more ruthlessly; that in this connection it is not so much the mobile mujahidin who suffer--rather, to an increasing degree the civilians who remain in their villages are the victims of such retaliatory attacks; that although the "Shuravi" (Russians) apparently have not repeated the use of poison gas, whose employment was once observed in the Kunar Valley, instead of this they are employing scarcely less perfidious means, namely blasting charges and plastic mines thrown out of helicopters, which look like colored sheets of paper, rocks, cigarette packs, ball-point pens, or watches. Thus, the hands and feet are ripped off not only of Allah's fighters, but also of women and children who cannot know what they are picking up. The eye clinic in Herat, a project which was headed by Canadian doctors with German support but which is now closed because of incessant battles, in the end had to treat 30 to 50 cases every day of serious facial injuries suffered by farmers from the surrounding area of this center of unrest in western Afghanistan. Here it is not difficult to imagine what the situation might look like in other regions which likewise belong to the "grey zones."

In mid-August in Herat, when the marauding rebel troops of a formerly notorious thief by the name of Nessar Schaliptré held the old bazaar occupied for 2 days, units of the 17th Afghan Infantry Division went over to the guerrillas. From their citadel, they fired at the attacking missile helicopters of the Soviets with heavy machineguns. In southern Ghazni at the end of July, the 14th Division mutinied when a new commander was about to be forced upon them from Kabul who belonged to the "Parcham" party wing of Karmal. A revolt developed, which could be quelled only by a major operation involving Russian helicopters and jet planes. Several hundred soldiers disappeared with the mujahidin into the mountains--in full gear and taking along with them Soviet surface-to-air missiles.

These examples make it clear why Babrak Karmal's bunker government has now given the catchword: "The party to the front"--whereas there is no more talk at all about the Afghan army. Because the troops, or whatever is left of them, are considered to be contaminated with "nationalism." It is said that over 80 percent of their officers is made up of followers of the "Parchami"-rivaling "Khalq" faction, which finds the transformation of Afghanistan into a better Soviet colony to be a "national disgrace."

It would be a gross simplification to attribute the dispute between the two party wings--which meanwhile has degenerated into a bloody vendetta--solely to differences of opinion about the Soviet presence. Personal, political, and ethnic antagonisms, which date back to the time of joint opposition to King Sahir Shah, are just as resonant here as the classical factor of Afghan clan conflicts. The "Khalqis" around Taraki and Amin ousted and liquidated the "Parchamis" of Babrak Karmal following the victorious coup against Daoud. And although at that time the Russians were backing the "Khalqis," on the other hand they kept in reserve in Eastern Europe the emigrant "Parchamis." Thus when Taraki failed and Amin developed into an unreliable fellow in the eyes of Moscow, the hour struck for the return of Babrak Karmal.

Mortal Enmities

The revolutionary leader presently in charge in Kabul would be a fool if he did not know that his role could be limited as well, that the Moscow stage-managers are likely to concoct a new scenario with other actors if the drama of Afghanistan gets out of their control. And it now looks like this may happen, because in an atmosphere of continuing uncertainty and fear, of mortal enmity within the party and growing pressure from outside, it is simply impossible for the Babrak regime to display normal governmental activities.

Marked out as a "Russian serf," which as a matter of fact he probably is not, Babrak Karmal accordingly seems doomed to ruin. It is said that he is plagued by depressions, is a heavy drinker, and often shuts himself up for hours at a time. He supposedly had his father, a retired royalist general, taken to the Soviet Union not long ago since the murder attempts against his family members and closest friends are increasing. When in his stronghold he decorates young party veterans with aged faces for their combat duty against the "terrorist gangs," these television images are ominously reminiscent of similar film themes from the last days of Hitler. "Your heroism will unforgettably remain in the history of our proud party and will enter for all time into its annals," Karmal addresses his faithful comrades. And the impression is almost as if he foresees or fears that the very next stage of this revolution will begin without him when he makes "the last request" to his young visitors "that you may also continue to maintain the utmost firmly-principled unity, perseverance, and endurance in the face of difficulties."

[Text] The Soviets Are Settling In.

Kabul, end of August--An important event for the diminished Western foreigner colony in Kabul is the soccer game "Germany against the rest of the 'world'" every Friday afternoon. The kicking takes place on the grounds of the "deutscher Verein," which lies at the edge of the new-town quarter of Shar-i-Nau beside an old fortress whose casemates are still being used nowadays as an ammunition depot. This is not a very cosy neighborhood, especially in a city which in the last 2 1/2 years has seen about a dozen coups, coup attempts, revolts, mutinies, a foreign military intervention, and demonstrations accompanied by street battles. Therefore it is understandable that this club remained empty for safety's sake when things heated up in Kabul.

To be sure, there is frequent rumbling and booming even in these August days, in which a deep-blue summer sky shines above the bare mountain ranges which surround the 1,800-meter-high valley basin containing the capital of Afghanistan. But these explosions come from the distance, somewhere in the Logar Valley or the canyons of the Paghman Massif, 20 kilometers away from the city. The kickers, tennis players, and bathers at the "deutscher Verein" seldom look up into the sky any more when a fresh squadron of Soviet missile helicopters whirs past above them. People have gotten used to seeing the Russians incessantly flying sorties against the rebel troops operating in the vicinity. "I do not feel endangered, I find the entire matter to be more like an absurd farce," says sarcastically a teacher who comes from Bavaria. He is one of that 10-membered contingent of teachers sent out from the FRG who are still doing service at the Amani Oberrealschule, the educational showpiece of German presence in the Hindu Kush established 50 years ago.

Relations Frozen

Besides the Federal border policemen of the Bonn embassy and three Swiss fitter mechanics, these teachers are the backbone of the "greater German" ball-kicker team. In former times, they used to play frequently against the Russians, but since the Soviet invasion that is not considered expedient any longer. With the collapse of the empty Interconti-Hotel, the "deutscher Verein" has become the last oasis for the diplomats, businessmen, and U.N. experts still remaining in Kabul. It is practically an international club, where also Hungarians, Czechoslovaks, and Poles like to show up. In any case, aside from the pro-Soviet bloc there are no longer many here in the way of foreign representatives. The countries of the West and most of the non-aligned states have recalled their ambassadors as a protest against the installation of the "Karmal puppet regime" and at most have left behind only charges d'affaires. Relations with the present regents in Kabul are frozen, and contacts still exist only on a "consular and technical level."

Occasionally there is something to put in order here, for example when adventurous tourists get into a fix, as happened to that 17-year-old junior high school graduate from Lower Bavaria not long ago, who thought it would be really neat to interest himself in Soviet radar installations. This curiosity cost him a few days spent in jail and in interrogations before the embassy could extricate him and put him on the next plane for Frankfurt. Others--the most recent example was the death of an Erlangen student--return home in a zinc coffin. As for daredevil undertakings such as were ventured by the publicity-seeking CDU politician Todenhoefer recently with his trek through the rebel area, one hears in the "deutscher Verein" only a unanimous commentary: "idiocy."

Meanwhile, the West's intention to "punish" the Kremlin through withdrawing from Kabul is proving to be an impulsive political act. Because with the giving up of Western positions, the Sovietization of Afghanistan is being made all the easier for Moscow. Soviet, East German, or Bulgarian scientists and technicians are moving in where instructors from the West have cleared out, and this situation is least of all to the liking of the Afghans, as one hears even from party-liners of Babrak Karmal. Significantly enough, so far no arrangements of any kind have been made on the part of the regime to impede the activity of the three remaining cultural institutions from the West still half-way functioning, or even to abandon them to the Eastern clutches. We are referring to the French-speaking Istiqlal Gymnasium, the German Amani Oberrealschule, and the Goethe Institute.

In the propagandistically simplified treatment of the Afghanistan topic in the West, the fact is frequently ignored that Moscow has had a pre-eminent position in the Hindu Kush for a long time. It had been Lenin's state which was the first to establish diplomatic relations with Kabul, when in 1919 King Amanullah proclaimed Afghanistan's independence from British colonial rule. By the way, Lenin's congratulatory letter contained a significant passage which was to turn up in similar formulations several times more in Soviet-Afghan documents: Namely, that the establishment of diplomatic relations opens up great possibilities for "bilateral aid in case of an attack from outside on the freedom or the property of Afghanistan."

The Americans have never committed themselves very much to the Hindu Kush. They recognized too late the geostrategic significance of this central-Asian mountainous country. Only two states have really been able to build up political, economic, and cultural influence in Kabul counter to that of the Kremlin, even though to a considerably more modest extent: France and the FRG, with the Bonn emissaries being lent a hand by a traditional pro-German attitude on the part of the Afghans, which probably also stemmed from a reflex to the previous British colonial times.

Generations of Afghan technicians, scientists, administrative officials, and politicians have gone through the Amani school, in the upper grades of which the natural-science subjects are taught in the German language.

Its most prominent graduate at the moment is Babrah Karmal. The leader of the revolution spent 13 years at this school under German direction, and he is indebted to it, as he once acknowledged, for "an educational experience which left a deep impression." Bonn spends about 1 1/2 million marks on this project yearly, with the sending out of 10 teachers even at this stage. Both the Germans and the French halved their teaching staff following the Soviet coup, but they have not dropped their cooperation with the Afghans. Meanwhile the French, in this respect always a half step ahead of the Germans, have even let the family members of the teachers return to Kabul. Because as paradoxical as it sounds, the situation with respect to safety has become more auspicious, at least for foreigners in Kabul, because of the "regulative factor of Soviet power." If a sort of Stalingrad psychosis prevailed among them earlier because in emergencies the first step was always the closing of the airport, now--after the Russians have settled in everywhere in this country--it is doubtless a certainty that the airport will be open and usable for any possible evacuations to the very end.

Like the Amani school, the Goethe Institute also cannot complain about any lack of interest on the part of young Afghans. The week before last, the 140 openings for the seven new language courses in German had already been booked up by the second day of registration. But like Bonn, Goethe also has applied brakes on its educational policy in Kabul. Aside from the language courses, occasional evenings of films, and perhaps a small exhibition of Afghan painters, nothing is permitted to function. To the annoyance of the institute's head, Hans Peter Apelt, who regrets "that the obviously existing possibilities of cooperation with Afghan agencies, for example with the educational ministry, cannot be utilized at present."

In contrast, the Soviets are seeking to establish their influence in Kabul with almost unrestrained ruthlessness in all areas. Despite vehement protests from viewers, the television program abounds with Eastern films, and the newspapers could have been edited in East Berlin or Sofia. Scarcely a day passes without some kind of aid and cooperation agreement being announced, signed, or renewed. An endless stream of "advisers" flows into the ministries, and 84 new lecturers from Moscow have entered service at the university. Afghan teachers are being sent to Eastern-Bloc countries for "advanced training," and young party cadres and soldiers are being flown to the fatherland of the working people for "crash courses." From that country, Lenin's heirs are helping out with gasoline deliveries, and they are sending their hard-pressed Afghan comrades donations of food and clothing which nevertheless are often accepted only with reluctance by even the most faithful of Karmal's fellow party members. That is, much of what is inundating the Afghan dwarf from the cornucopia of goods of the eastern superpower is not of choice quality. A Zurich printing expert, who was in a position to observe the working life of the Kabul government printing office throughout August, frequently heard bitter complaints there "about the most recent junk which our--friends--are sending us."

Since apparently from Moscow's point of view Afghanistan's ties to the Soviet Union ought to be of relatively long duration, at present new prefabricated apartment buildings are arising along the airport road, which will be occupied exclusively by Russian advisers and their families. There are plans to restructure the entire administrative system in accordance with the Soviet model. The proportion of agricultural cooperatives and that sector of industry under State control are to be enlarged. Afghanistan has joined the East's "Council for Economic Mutual Assistance" as an "observer."

Karmal: 'An Act of God'

Babrak Karmal does not tire of extolling the aid of big brother as selfless and as an "act of God." The matter is really quite simple, remonstrated the revolutionary ruler to a delegation of provincial elders from Bamian: "If you divide the world into six parts, one part is the Soviet Union. This is enough even for its great-grandchildren. Whatever you can name, they have it there. They have petroleum, natural gas, many mines, and sufficient farmland. They do not need to occupy any foreign country."

Need not, perhaps, but they are doing it here, then decking out such operations as relief measures. And in this matter Afghanistan has its historical experiences. In one of the broadsheets now circulating in Kabul as "night letters" which are being distributed by a resistance group of liberal intellectuals, there is a reminder of the case of the old Central-Asian trading city of Bukhara. In 1920, the Red Army marched into that city and eliminated the emir and the khanate. Kabul's King Amanullah protested against this occupation and reminded the Russians of the commitment agreed upon with Afghanistan "to honor the independence and freedom of Bukhara and Khiva, whatsoever their form of government, in accordance with the will of their peoples." Through the envoy Ras-kolnikov, the Russian government affirmed that it also was constantly endeavoring to maintain the freedom of Bukhara: "The entry and sojourning of a limited contingent of our troops in Bukhara was desired by the government of Bukhara." By no means, it said, can this "friendly support" be viewed as an interference in its freedom. "As soon as the government of Bukhara no longer deems this sojourn necessary, the troops will be pulled back."

Sixty years later, the Soviets actually had to change only the name of the city from this text in their defense of their Kabul intervention.

[5 Sep 80, p 3]

[Text] The Ritual of the Forced Confessions.

Kabul, end of August--In the presence of two soldiers armed with submachine guns in the rear--as if an enormous danger still threatened from this "lackey of imperialism"--21-year-old Mohsen Rezai reels off his carefully worded confession. At the Kabul foreign ministry, before

a hand-picked press and party audience, the Iranian citizen Rezai relates how he became a "counter-revolutionary soldier." Actually, being the offspring of a "religiously fanatic family" he wanted to support the anti-Zionist struggle of the Palestinians, he says with a thick voice. But then he claims to have fallen into circles which persuaded him that the anti-Soviet struggle for Islam in Afghanistan was not less important. Today, 6 months after his capture while engaging in "counter-revolutionary activities" in Kabul, the young Iranian knows that in doing this he let himself "get caught in the net of U.S. imperialism."

At all events, that is the way he proclaimed it. He has been booked for one of those coarse propaganda appearances which the revolutionary regime in Kabul arranges from time to time. Declarations of guilt such as that of Mohsen Rezai are supposed to corroborate "with irrefutable evidence" that an armed conspiracy "by the counter-revolutionary forces under the leadership of U.S. imperialism and of Chinese chauvinism, as well as by circles of the regional and international reactionary element" has been organized from outside the country against revolutionary progress in Afghanistan--something which supposedly confirms anew the rightness of the Soviet support.

Therefore, in the confession of the young Iranian all the propagandistic buzz words, terms, and threads of reference must also appear which are capable of supporting this all-inclusive charge, no matter how flimsy it may be: The weapons from American, British, and Pakistani stocks, for example, the Chinese copies of Soviet Kalashnikov submachine guns, radio sets of German manufacture, flow of funds from Saudi Arabia or Egypt, and, of course, the controlling hand of the CIA in the background. Thus, part of the ritual of such exhibitions is the definitive question, as if coming from the Grand Inquisitor, asked by the PRAVDA reporter about the military "training camps" for the counter-revolutionaries in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar. The "revelations" which Mohsen Rezai has to offer on this score certainly do not sound especially sensational: There he had "received instructions for acts of sabotage in Kabul" from Burhan-uddin Rabbani--a theology professor who heads the resistance group "Jamiat Islami"--and then had left Peshawar together with an Afghan.

Meanwhile, the claim that Western and Chinese weapons as well as Arab monies are finding their way to various Afghan resistance groups via Iran and Pakistan can no longer be seriously disputed. "The rebels are receiving weapons from outside, not to a great extent, but adequate to keep their actions going," the representative in Kabul of an Asian country believes he can say with certainty. It is no longer the case, he said, that the mujahidin are dependent on Soviet captured materiel alone. For example, the mines with which the guerrillas have now learned how to obstruct quite successfully the roads and trails in the interior of the country against Russian tanks and personnel carriers come from American producers. However, even this sceptical diplomat must admit that so far the insurgents do not have that weapon which alone could threaten the feared missile helicopters: Surface-to-air missiles. But

this, he said, will perhaps change yet in case of a possible further freezing of East-West relations and following the election of a new American president.

Similar apprehensions can also be heard from other Western-oriented circles in Kabul. Now and then such impressions harden into the charge leveled against the Americans that they are carrying on a "strategy of pure idealism." The representative of a West European embassy says in consternation: "The Americans rejoice like children over the fact that Misha like the United States itself in Vietnam, is in a fix here. But they do not seem to be worried much about what will happen to the people in Afghanistan. What they would probably like best is for all of us to strike our tents as well." Moreover, many Western and neutral diplomats are annoyed at the fact that much of what is communicated to the Americans in the exchange of information among colleagues gets into the Western news agencies shortly thereafter via Delhi and from time to time re-echos back again to Kabul over Western broadcasting stations so distorted and dramatically decked that even the U.S. military attache Jim Kelly has to admit: "Then I just have to run to the window to see whether I am even in the same city."

What will and what can happen in Afghanistan? At the moment, the Babrak regime has no other ambition than that of bare survival. When Moscow's protege announces ambitious economic and social programs, when he dreams of trade-union reforms, when IZVESTIA or L'HUMANITE reports that the people in Kabul understand the government "better and better," this is pure hocus-pocus. At present, the government cannot do much more than hope for Soviet successes in wearing down the Moslem rebels and apart from that for a political miracle which might happen perhaps in a neighboring country. "The GDR as well was ostracized and isolated for years," a functionary of the "Parcham" party wing tries to make light of the allusion to the ghetto existence of his government. Certainly, but there the Red Army had every point in the territory under its control, whereas in the mountainous country of the Hindu Kush not even 20 percent is under such control. To be sure, such arguments do not spoil the revolutionary optimism of Babrak Karmal's young follower: "We only have to stick it out. When the Tudeh party in Iran and the leftist forces in Pakistan have finally prevailed, then we will have succeeded also."

Against Pakistan, the "refuge of the regional reactionary element," the political pressure of the Kremlin has drastically intensified. The Moscow media and their Kabul offshoots openly threaten the military regime of General Zia ul-Haq, who is little loved in his own country, with "destabilization measures." It is said in warning that Pakistan will have to answer for the fact that it is letting its territory be made into "the marshaling area for an undeclared war of aggression against democratic Afghanistan." The key words are Baluchistan, the Durand-line, and Pashtunistan. In these areas, a fire can be kindled easily by the stirring up of latent separatist movements and the infiltration of guerrilla troops--which, rumor has it, have already been trained in Afghan

camps--and this could put the military junta in Islamabad in a predicament. That Zia is very much aware of this Achilles heel and does not dare to quarrel with the eastern superpower without American-Chinese backing can be concluded from the fact, among other things, that he is sheepishly silent about the Soviet violations of Pakistani air space. For weeks now, Russian helicopters and MiG jet fighters have been openly flying several times a day over the North-West Frontier Province.

In Kabul, where all the diplomatic means of extinguishing crises have evidently gotten stuck in deadlocks, they are waiting for the next military blows of the Soviets. About 200,000 to 300,000 soldiers more would have to be put into this central-Asian mountainous state by the Russians in order to close off to some degree the borders with Iran and next to Pakistan and to suppress the rebellion in the interior, it is the unanimous opinion of military experts, regardless of their nationality. But such a decision, which would be extremely momentous not only militarily but also politically, is not likely to be taken before the winter, before the result of the American elections. Until then, the newly-created "combat sections" of the party and the mercenaries hired by the Pashtun tribes are supposed to harass the "terrorists" more vigorously. Surely there are "no more than 30,000 bandits, who operate only in small units," says the political commissar of the Afghan army, Major General Gul Aqa, in an attempt to reassure the "revolutionary volunteers" before their engagement.

Hopes Placed in the King

The conflicts possibly will last for years yet, and thus Afghanistan will continue to bleed. Some day, then, the moment may come when the Soviets realize that they cannot impose any communist system on this Islamic country and also it becomes clear to the West that no solution can be achieved against the will of the Soviets. If one asks members of the urban middle class in Kabul what way out they see in this muddled situation, astonishingly enough he often hears an answer often given also by Abdullah, a social scientist trained in the FRG: "The return of King Zahir Shah from his Roman exile as a purely transitional solution; the king would be the saving shield under which we could come together again." Abdullah--of course, this is not his right name--heads a liberal resistance group and is one of the authors of the much-esteemed "night letters." Under the governments of Taraki and Amin, he lost half of the members of his family. To be sure, a victory by the radical-orthodox mujahidin, such as for example by the "Hezbe Islami" group around the fundamentalist Asketen Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, now residing in Peshawar, would be just as unsuitable to Abdullah: "If they march into Kabul, there will be chaos like in Iran."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD VIEWS, ATTITUDES DISCUSSED

Interview With Al-Talmasani

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 7 Jul 80 pp 10-11

[Interview With 'Umar al-Talmasani, Muslim Brotherhood Leader, by Muhammad 'Uthman; "Debate on Religious Thought Persists; 'Umar al-Talmasani Takes Part in Dialogue and Says: No Right, no Left, no Nationalization and no Ownership Limitation in Islam; Following Example of Prophet in Dealings and in Character, not in Wearing Flowing Robes and Growing Beard"]

[Text] No discussion on the crisis of religious thought in Egypt can be started without participation in the discussion by 'Umar al-Talmasani.

'Umar al-Talmasani needs no introduction. He is one of the pillars of the Muslim Brotherhood and the man in charge of AL-DA'WAH magazine. Following is the text of the interview with al-Talmasani:

He starts by talking about the issue of the crisis in the religious thought and says:

The failure of the scholars and of the speakers to familiarize themselves with the truth of their religion, their interest in the western theories, their fascination with the western civilization and the poor state of the Muslims have made these scholars and speakers ask extremely surprising questions. If there is a crisis, then it is in the western thought whose philosophers and writers since Socrates, Plato and others and until the present have not succeeded in attaining a state of stability, security and peace. What is viewed as right by this one is viewed as wrong by that one and what is approved by this one is refuted by that one, even when it comes to fundamentals.

The Islamic thought has been spared this astonishing contradiction. It is true that there are in Islam imams and jurisprudents who have disagreed but their disagreement has been on subsidiary matters only. As for the principles, rules and fundamentals, there is absolutely no disagreement

between any of the ancient or modern ulama. If some Muslim thinkers believe that there is a crisis in the Islamic thought, then this is only because they have strained and exhausted themselves with social, philosophical and moral studies without giving their religion the same attention. The crisis is not in the Islamic thought but in the minds of some Muslim thinkers. Let them pay attention to studying all aspects of their religion, especially in the books which they call unjustly the yellow books, and it will then become evident to all where the crisis lies and whether it is in the Islamic thought or in the minds of those who carry the name of this thought.

Left and Sayyid Qutub

[Question] How does the Muslim Brotherhood visualize the solution to the social problem in Egypt? Do you have a program to solve the economic and other problems?

[Answer] The Muslim Brotherhood has no special visualization regarding the social problem. The Brotherhood's visualization is the visualization of every Muslim who abides by the teachings of his religion. Imam Hasan al-Banna--the first grand master of the Muslim Brotherhood and the movement's founder--has written extremely precise and comprehensive treatises which are in circulation. When the officials pay attention to them, they will find out how all crises with their various names are overcome.

[Question] Is there a visualization insofar as the issue of nationalization and of the limitation of agricultural ownership is concerned?

[Answer] Islam knows no maximum and no minimum insofar as private ownership--money, business, real estate, agricultural land and so forth--is concerned, provided that the profit made from this ownership is legal, the spending from it is for what is permissible and provided that the alms tax and charities are paid for this ownership "and those who when they spend are not extravagant and not stingy and who (follow) the right path in between."
[Loose translation of Koran phrase]

[Question] Is there within the Islamic current what we may call a leftist Islam?

[Answer] A Muslim, if he is a true Muslim, should not think of such issues which have been created by the enemies of Islam with the aim of casting doubt on Islam itself, and these enemies will not realize their goal because God preserves His religion.

[Question] Some Islamic thinkers believe that the current which used to be represented by Sayyid Qutub tended toward what may be called the Islamic left. What is your opinion?

[Answer] This name has no base in Islam, as I have already said. Such names and the assumption of such qualities is something that Islam does not at all know. The late Sayyid Qutub was one of the advocates of the Muslim Brotherhood. One of the woes and catastrophes which 'Abd-al-Nasir's regime inflicted upon the Muslim Brotherhood was to ascribe such descriptions to the Muslim Brothers to distort their image and to sow division among them. Sayyid Qutub and his opinions know nothing of the so-called Islamic left.

Between Following Prophet's Example and Growing Beards

[Question] What, in your view, is the Islamic society that must be established? Are there any differences between this society and the Islamic society in the time of the prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, and of al-Rashidun caliphs as a result of the passage of 14 centuries?

[Answer] The modern Islamic society, in my view, is a society which has the values that were present in the society of God's prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, such as pure faith, complete manliness, full commitment, ample decency and widespread selflessness. These are some of the values of the Islamic society in the prophet's time and the values of this society till kingdom come, without any difference or any disagreement. The biography books about the prophet portray clearly the Islamic society in the time of the prophet and of al-Rashidun caliphs.

[Question] There has been a lot of talk recently about the Islamic strictures. In your view, can the Islamic Shari'a be applied before establishment of the complete Islamic society and is Islam nothing but strictures?

[Answer] This question deserves gentle censure, but with praiseworthy consequences. Islam establishes virtuous societies. The opposite is not correct and not true. So how can people ask if Islam is nothing but strictures? They are thus unaware that Islam includes strictures, a civil, criminal, commercial and international law, litigation, trials and crime investigation, commercial and economic transactions, science, sociology, ethics and politics and all the other things in this life. Islam guarantees man reassurance and security for his life, his property and his inviolability. These and similar questions are definitely harmful to the Muslim before being harmful to Islam because the loftiness of a towering mountain cannot be undermined by insects climbing its sides and its prestige cannot be enhanced by hawks and eagles nesting on its top. Islam is Islam regardless of how hard the tendentious try.

[Question] There are those who believe that following the example of the prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, should be in matters more important than donning flowing robes and growing beards. What is your opinion?

[Answer] I believe that following the example of the prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, should be in dealings, morals, social interaction and in every external and internal aspect. The prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, had a fine tent made of al-Ta'if camel wool which he bought for 27 she-camels. He also owned a red outer garment made in Azerbaïdhan which he used to wear when meeting delegations. God, may He be praised, has ordered us to follow the example of the prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, in everything. Every Muslim should strive to follow the prophet's example in all external and internal aspects of his life.

'Abd-al-Nasir and Brotherhood

[Question] It is noticed that the Muslim Brothers view 'Abd-al-Nasir's era only through the torture they encountered during that era. They have not lauded a single one of that era's accomplishments. Do you think that the revolution years have not realized any accomplishments at the various political, social and economic levels?

[Answer] The nature of 'Abd-al-Nasir's era was evil and harmful. The harm caused by the nationalization and the custodianship is still crushing the Egyptian nation. The communist economy has led us to these fatal crises from which everybody is trying to rescue the homeland. The religious side suffered tyranny and oppression whose effects we see in many of our youths today. As for the High Dam, may God save us from its dangers. Even if 'Abd-al-Nasir's era was nothing but accomplishments and achievements, it is enough that it flouted man's dignity. So what good did Egypt get in that era?

Moreover, all the information media and all the officials ignored intentionally the role of the Muslim Brothers in Palestine and in the canal and their positive role in familiarizing the people with the teachings of Islam. At the same time, the information media were eager to spread the abominable, to undermine praiseworthy values and to destroy morals. Perhaps the reason for this observation is that the Brothers weigh every deed with the yardstick of Islam. They praise what Islam praises and vilify what Islam vilifies.

[Question] The Islamic groups are a new manifestation within the Islamic current. What is your position toward them?

[Answer] I believe that the Islamic groups that have been formed in the universities must continue. Some individuals may be blamed for going beyond the customary. But I can affirm that these youths have not understood the truth of Islam. This is in addition to the presence of some tendentious people and some communists who always provoke the students by disparaging the religious aspects. I don't think that you condone any Muslim who remains silent in the face of anybody who flouts his religion.

Moreover, some people are eager to organize shameless, dissolute and licentious entertainment parties with the aim of provoking the students who abide by their religion so that it may be said that they are fanatic and that they restrict the freedom of others. If the government had dealt with these Islamic groups sympathetically and with true understanding, the present state of conflict between the Islamic groups, the universities and the government would not have been reached. I do not approve of any student, even if he is a communist, who insults his professor and I do not approve of any student who expresses his political opinion through insults and villification. I consider any student who does not abide by the rules of his religion in dealing with all people a student who hasn't understood his religion.

Woman's Freedom Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

[Question] You have certain positions toward women's freedom. Aren't there any changes in these positions as a result of the modern development and civilization?

[Answer] My view of women's freedom yesterday is still my view today and will be my view tomorrow. We are the ones who are surprised. I am not asking the Muslim woman to do more than abide by the rules of her religion. If some women do not follow the opinion of the advocates of Islam, then they can resort to his eminence the shaykh of al-Azhar, to the mufti, to the minister of awqaf and to the Council of Prominent Ulama to find out their opinion of Islam's view of the freedom of the Muslim woman, provided that the answer to the women's query be broadcast by the information media and that the answer of the gentlemen ulama be also published by the media. All the people will thus know whether these women are following the teachings of their religion or whether they are deviating completely from these teachings. Even though these women squeeze Koran phrases and venerable Hadiths of the prophet in their statements at times, they better have fear of God in their hearts because the pain God inflicts is terrible.

[Question] AL-DA'WAH magazine which you supervise talks a lot about the past. What about our society's present and future issues?

[Answer] Brother, AL-DA'WAH publishes only a few pages about the Brothers in the past. I think that you cannot but agree with me that the Brothers have the right to respond to what was attributed to them falsely and deceptively in the past. The rest of the magazine deals with the present issues. If you examine the magazine's pages you will find out that it talks a lot more about the present and the future than about the past. May God guide you and me to the right path.

'Abdallah Imam's Res

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 7 Jul 80 pp 12

[Article: "'Abdallah Imam Responds to al-Ta

[Text] A man hesitates a lot when the duty debate the Muslim Brotherhood, because the Muslim Brotherhood does not advocate God's p kindness alone, but uses all means, beginning ending with the dagger.

Whether this is true or not and whether it is propaganda by the Brotherhood's enemies, I find some of what 'Umar al-Talmasani has said in the counter view. Perhaps the Brotherhood is of serious and objective dialogue.

Al-Talmasani sees nothing in the July revolution other than an era with an evil and harmful nationalized, imposed custodianship, set up ruined the country, inflicted tyranny and in High Dam--from whose dangers al-Talmasani in man's dignity, and intentionally ignored the and in the canal. The information media in the abominable and destroying morals!

This is the July revolution's statement of a angle.

We accept this assessment from anybody who h the Muslim Brotherhood, because the values t them to honesty, truthfulness and impartiali

When Mr al-Talmasani sits under the light of the High Dam to implore God to save him from ignoring the opinions of hundreds of experts the People's Assembly and in specialized cou the High Dam, on the role that it has perfor and on the negative aspects that had been st of the dam--when al-Talmasani ignores all th the opinions of the U.S. mission which came effects of the High Dam, which lauded the gr refuted all opinions criticizing it; when al to find an excuse for him. Perhaps he is no and perhaps the burdens of the call whose me given him enough time to follow up on this i

But we can find no excuse for the prominent teacher when he talks about the religious aspect which was afflicted with tyranny and oppression. The religious aspect does not consist of the Muslim Brotherhood--more-over, we are not discussing what befell them. The religious aspect is more general and comprehensive and is deeper and greater.

It is surprising that the religious aspect was afflicted with oppression in an era in which al-Azhar was developed and into which women entered for the first time, an era in which a special radio station was set up to broadcast the Koran, in which an Islamic Affairs Council was formed, in which Islamic centers were set up abroad, in which bridges were extended between the revolutionary Egypt and many of the Islamic world's countries, in which the revolution helped many enslaved peoples achieve their independence and in which this revolution built thousand of mosques. It is surprising that al-Talmasani cannot see all, or part, of this, even if he has a different view on some of these accomplishment. It is still more surprising that he accuses the information media of having spread the abominable. Was the July revolution press profligate, licentious and naked? Was the revolution television lewd and did the state set up the Cinema Organization to spread obscenity? The film industry was present in Egypt before the revolution and the revolution came to refine it. The Cinema Organization produced hundreds of serious and purposeful films, some of them historical and some religious.

Al-Talmasani may reject all of this and he has the right to. We agree with him on some matters. But it is unfair to have testimony from a pious Muslim describing an era which tried to spread the values of justice and honesty as an era that sought to destroy morals and to spread obscenity. The issue of the communist economy set up by the revolution also requires a pause.

It is the right of al-Talmasani to call for a capitalist economy and to reject the limitation of ownership but he has no right to accuse the revolution economy of having been a communist economy just because al-Talmasani rejects nationalization. The distribution of land to farmers is not communism. King Hassan II, the Hashimite [sic, and wrong] king of Morocco, has done this. The construction of hundreds of light and heavy industry plants is not communism. Prevention of exploitation is not communism and the establishment of justice is not communism. Perhaps all of these actions are of the essence of Islam.

When evaluating the July revolution and 'Abd-al-Nasir's era, we must be fair and must point out the negative and the positive aspects.

The July revolution has many positive aspects, none of which al-Talmasani has acknowledged. Perhaps he was in jail or in detention camp--justly or unjustly--and did not hear about these positive aspects. But there is no doubt that after his release, he has come to know of and has heard about the industries that were set up, the farmer who was done justice, the

worker who has regained his humanity, the merchant who has been forced not to exploit, the student who has been educated free of charge, the village that has come to know the light of education, the electricity of the dam and the medical treatment unit.

It was al-Talmasani's duty to study and evaluate all these accomplishments. He has among his friends and Brothers farmers and workers who have entered the People's Assembly and he could have asked them so that his judgement could be more objective and more compatible with the fairness of Islam.

The July revolution has many negative aspects on which al-Talmasani always focuses. Some of these aspects are real and we acknowledge and denounce them, even though al-Talmasani attributes to them bigger dimensions than their real ones. As for the other aspects, al-Talmasani views them only through what he and his group have suffered, completely denying the other side of the picture.

The Brothers did struggle in the Palestine war before the revolution and nobody has denied this. What is more, there were among the revolution men and the army officers those who trained the Brothers and supplied them with weapons, and this is something that history notes. As for the canal battle, the views are different. Perhaps al-Talmasani does not remember the statement of the grand master [of Muslim Brotherhood] after abrogation of the [canal] treaty and declaration of the armed struggle when a journalist asked him about the duty of the Brotherhood youth under those circumstances. The late counselor Hasan al-Hudaybi answered the journalist: "Do you think that violence will evict the British from the country? It is the government's duty to do what the Brothers are doing, namely enlighten and prepare the people. This is the way to evict the British." (AL-JUMHUR AL-MISRI, 15 October 1951)

The grand master then addressed the Brotherhood youth, saying: "Go and concentrate on reading the venerable Koran." Khalid Muhammad Khalid responded to the grand master in an article published in ROSE AL-YUSUF under the title of: "Rejoice With Long and Safe Life, George." At the outset of his article, Khalid said: The Muslim Brotherhood, which has been one of our hopes, has not moved and has not hurled a stone or a brick for the sake of the homeland. When the Brotherhood's grand master stood to address 10,000 youths a few days ago, he told them: Go and concentrate on reading the venerable Koran. The poor Egypt heard this instruction and beat her chest, crying: O my heart.

Concluding his response, Khalid said: There are in Egypt popular forces that can, despite their circumstances, fill up the canal with the corpses of the British. But these forces are monopolized. In whose interest and till when will the organizations and councils monopolize these forces?

Al-Talmanani can check the article in ROSE AL-YUSUF's edition of 30 October 1951.

The debate is long and it requires calm, objective and honest discussions. We will not be able to advance and to make accomplishments if we deny and distort our history, if we cover it with all this blackness and if we view it through hatred. May God protect us and protect His worshippers from the evils of this hatred.

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 30 Jun 80 pp 8-10

[Interview With Deputy Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid by Mahmud al-Maraghi; "Egyptian Economy Between Morphine and Acupuncture; We Accept Challenge and We Raise Wages Without Increasing Prices; New Policy Is Not Short-Term Policy But Policy That Extends into Future"]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid has responded to what ROSE AL-YUSUF published in its previous edition. He has explained what the magazine has termed the dilemma of raising wages and incomes without increasing prices, of increasing spending without increasing--even while eliminating--the deficit and of increasing imports while establishing a balance in the transactions with the outside world. Dr 'Abd al-Razzaq has said that all this is possible because our policy is integrated [mutarabitah].

Borrowing and Development

Scrutinizing the pages of ROSE AL-YUSUF, Dr 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid smiled and said: "If I had written this article, I would have chosen a different title saying: 'We Are Not Experiencing a Deficit But Are Borrowing to Enhance Development Rates.'"

The question is one of choosing between a low investment rate and a high investment rate which depends on our savings and the savings of others in the outside world. Yes we are borrowing but this borrowing is necessary for the development.

[Question] Let us begin the story from the start. The declared objectives--namely, to increase the incomes and stabilize the prices and, consequently, to effect a real rise in the standard of living--are something for which every citizen aspires. But can this be really done or are the means that we are employing having an effect in the short run while the long range remains a different story? The matter requires clarification. What is your visualization while drawing up this policy? In other words, what is your visualization while you accept the challenge and tackle what seems to be contradictory?

[Answer] There are no contradictions. Let us analyze together what is happening. They say that spending or the budget is the main instrument for correcting the course of the Egyptian economy. This is not true. The budget is only one of the instruments. It is an effective instrument that can escalate or reduce inflation and prices. What has happened this year?

The budget consists of two parts: A part channelled toward managing society and the other part toward developing this society. In the first part which provides security, justice and various services--the part which we call current spending--there has been a surplus this year, meaning that we have resources that exceed our needs to manage the society. This surplus reduces the inflationary pressure. This is the first trend.

[Question] Before we go on, has the surplus been the result of an increase in the resources or of a squeeze in spending?

[Answer] Spending in the second section (public expenditures) has been streamlined and there has been an increase in wages. I have insisted on this increase in wages in realization of what I have called "the humaneness of government." This humaneness is also reflected in the increase in subsidies. But on the other hand, there has been an increase in some fundamental resources, such as oil and the canal which together have yielded nearly 700 million pounds. There are other increases in resources which occur essentially without the adoption of any measures, such as the customs revenues which are tied to the increased volume of imports or of exports. This is where the balance has been realized. The new spending has been countered by new resources. Consequently, there is no fear of inflation.

We must point out here that a certain approach has been changed. For example, we used to give the cost of living allowance to everybody and this payment was like, permit me to use the expression, a morphine injection which kills pain for a time after which the patient awakens to find that prices have risen and that the disease has worsened. We are now following a different approach. Let me liken this approach to acupuncture. We choose certain positions which represent points of weakness in society and we inject a needle here and a needle there. Together, they complement one another and provide some cure. An example is what we are doing with pensioners or with people having small incomes. Let us speak frankly. How can we condone an income of 12 or 16 pounds monthly for some citizens, such as sentries, for example? How can such people live? This is impossible. We have raised their income to 20 pounds. This increase affects other aspects. This is understandable. But we deal with the effects through another measure and so forth.

The other issue is the state's role in developing society. This is done through the investment budget. The effects of this investment are reflected in the price and inflation situation.

In the new year, it has been decided to appropriate (3.2) billion pounds for government and public sector investments. Some may say: So what have you done? Wasn't the 1980 appropriation 3.1 billion pounds? So where is the increase?

Talking about things in this manner is inaccurate. An examination of the investment spending in the first half of the year shows that the allocated sums have not been spent and that the actual spending has not amounted to 1 billion pounds, i.e., one-third the year's appropriations. Therefore, when we say that we will invest (3.2) billion pounds, then this is a high rate.

Insofar as inflation is concerned, there are two possibilities: The first is that some units will be unable, as has already happened, to absorb the investments set aside for them. This will help to balance and stabilize the prices.

The second possibility is that the investments will take place. I will be happier with this, of course. The effects of these projects [for which the investments are allocated] are immediate effects. Sixty percent of the investments are for projects that are already under implementation and 10 percent of the investments are for replacement and renewal purposes. Both types of investments give us immediate results in term of commodity and service production. Consequently, spending on these projects will not escalate the inflation that is well-known in the case of development.

In both cases and regardless of whether the spending is done or not, we want to eliminate the excuse of financing. The financing is available from local and foreign resources. The agencies concerned have to do their work. In this regard, we must point out that it is necessary to raise the efficiency of the local circles in implementing the development projects. This can be done.

I will also point out here that the allocated rate of investment, amounting to 25 percent of the national income, will continue. This will add another dimension to what is being done. What is being done is not a short-term policy but a policy that deals with medium- and long-range problems. It is also hoped that this rate of investment will increase.

Third Weapon

Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq pauses for a moment, telephone calls interrupt the interview and then we continue the dialogue.

"There is a third weapon, namely the banking apparatus. We have formulated an interest rate structure. We have raised the interest and this is likely to attract savings and to reduce the purchase and spending pressure. This means that we are reducing the chances of inflation. Isn't it so?"

[Question] But there is another question. This is true for the small saver whose savings don't help him engage in another activity. Meanwhile, the situation is very different insofar as the big saver, or investor, is concerned. This segment, which is the main segment [of savers], prefers to operate in the market and to earn a bigger profit. When this segment [of big investors] deals with the banks and pays high interest rates, it will reflect these rates in the prices of its products. It may even reflect these high rates in reduced activities because when the interest rate exceeds a certain limit, the economic activity is forced to recede.

[Answer] This is true. The rule, however, is that if a project doesn't yield a profit parallel to the interest rate, then there is no need for such a project. We have raised the interest rate but the truth of the matter is that many of the projects are purely commercial projects and it is better for us to curtail them. But if the consequences affect factories, for example, then the matter is different. When we formulated our visualization regarding the National Investment Bank which will deal with the public sector, we took this fact into consideration. The interest rates will vary according to the type of economic activity. For example, we will loan the sewerage projects at an interest rate of 0.25 percent, al-Nuzhah airport at a rate of 0.50 percent and school projects at no interest at all and with a period of grace of 50 [sic] years. Meanwhile, interest rates will be higher for industrial projects and still higher for those who intend to export their products. This means that there are rules in accordance with which the interest rates charged the public sector, which is the main sector, will vary from zero percent to 12 percent.

[Question] Do we understand from this that the services will be financed through government loans and that the service facility will have to repay its loan?

[Answer] The 50-year period of grace is coupled with the idea that an asset owned by a school or a hospital, for example, will be consumed during this period and the value of the asset will decrease to zero. Consequently, such a project will repay nothing. This is merely an accounting procedure.

[Question] This concerns the financing necessary for investment. But what about the current financing for the public sector. This sector is borrowing from the commercial banks at high interest rates that affect this sector's [product] prices.

[Answer] We have foreign commodity loans that cover most of the public sector's production requirements. The benefits and facilities that the government gets from these loans are transferred to the public sector. These loans amount to 1 billion pounds annually.

[Question] There remains the question of the private sector. Will this sector raise its prices because of the hike in the interest rates?

[Answer] The government has intervened here also. It has allocated 75 million pounds for land reclamation at an interest rate of just 3 percent whereas the cost is 11 percent. The government pays the difference. The same thing has been done insofar as housing, the small industries and food security are concerned. Therefore, we are loaning the productive private sector at low interest rates. So how can this sector be affected by the commercial interest rates? We have insulated a broad sector against being affected by the new interest rates charged by banks. Through the policy of inexpensive loans, we have even guaranteed the spurring of large investments in the private sector.

Thus, the hike in the interest rates will withdraw some money [from the market] and will lead to a degree of recession that will have a positive effect on prices. At the same time, these rates will not affect the costs of projects because the projects will be treated in a special manner according to their importance--an importance that will be given strong consideration.

We must also point out that other measures have accompanied this [increase in interest rates]--measures that are likely to withdraw some money from the markets.

An example of this is the agreement we have concluded with foreign banks to have them keep 15 percent of their deposits in the Central Bank. I am withdrawing this money from circulation and putting it at the disposal of the Central Bank according to its needs. This money will take the form of bank deposits and will collect from the Central Bank the interest rate customary among banks. This is better than when the Central Bank had to borrow from abroad and pay higher interest.

[Question] Can we have an initial evaluation of this action?

[Answer] Initially, I would say that this measure and other accompanying measures are likely to absorb a degree of purchase capacity from the market. It is also capable of bolstering the Egyptian pound and of increasing the import capability.

The value of the pound has risen against the dollar. When some importers complain that forcing them to pay 100 percent of the value of the luxury commodities, for example, which they import and when they say that the government thus denies them the advantage that they enjoyed when they had to make delayed rather than advance payment, we answer immediately: The opposite is true because the importers will lose the interest that the bank will pay them if they postpone the use of their dollars. [If they pay in advance] they benefit from the price difference between an expensive dollar and a less expensive dollar. The final outcome is a benefit of more than 10 percent in the import price, both for the merchant and the consumer.

The other aspect is the greater foreign currency monetary capability that the Central Bank has acquired. This capability enhances the import capability and reduces the import price because we pay "in cash." We have no shortage of monies at present and the essential and food supplies are fully available.

I do not think that we disagree that the availability of goods is the decisive factor in reducing prices.

Thus, the measures that have been taken integrate each other and each of them constitutes a weapon. We have used some weapons and we will use others.

What Then?

[Question] (The interview then turned to the other side of the coin). Yes, the new policy is trying to absorb the damaging effect of the surplus monies in the market and is trying to establish a "rapid balance through heavy

importation" relying on the resources of the Central Bank or of borrowing. But what then? How can a real balance be established without loans and without special measures?

[Answer] This cannot be realized without an increase in production. The question is how and, also, what kind of production do we mean? Colored televisions, eggs or sugar? It is important to determine the kind of production.

I also say that the production cycle can be made shorter. I can cultivate sugarcane and build a sugar plant [at the same time], thus supplying commodity production in the shortest time possible.

Moreover, if we streamline some types of consumption and if, for example, we think of stopping production by the big plants producing preserves and if we produce beverages with glucose, which is cheaper, wouldn't this save us money?

[Question] We agree on this. Development is the only means for a real balance in the Egyptian economy. But don't you think that the appropriations made for development this year seem to be unbalanced, at least for the industry sector which yields a huge and essential commodity production and which has not gotten big investments?

[Answer] We have allocated 413 million pounds for industry. But this is added to 6 or 7 billion pounds already spent [on this sector]. The problem we are facing at present is that there are numerous projects "under implementation" and I say that these projects can produce a quick yield with limited investments.

[Question] But some people in public sector believe that there is no solution and no chance without a foreign partner. Have you formed an opinion on this issue?

[Answer] My opinion has always been clear. The open-door policy has been intended to strengthen the public sector. The present problem is not a financial problem. Money is available. What we need is technology and good management. Partnership is not a goal but it is also not rejected altogether. Each case should be studied separately. What is important is the goal.

In the sphere of technology, we can acquire it by importing an expert or by importing the "right to know" [presumably meaning the knowhow]. Partnership is not the only means. It is true that the matter varies from project to project. What applies to light [industry] projects is not what applies to al-Nasr Car Company.

In any case, anyone who thinks that he needs a foreign partner because of "money" is wrong. We have loans of 7 billion dollars at our disposal. There is no place for the financing excuse. If, for example, the problem of Ideal is "1 million pounds," then let it take 1 million pounds.

Return to Prices

[Question] The discussion is not complete. The issue of prices requires further clarification. Can we actually control prices when 40 percent of the food commodities are imported? Can we control them when the volume of imports generally is rising and when the number of the open-door economy projects which operate outside any pricing system is also increasing? Can prices be controlled when the private sector supplies nearly all of the agricultural production and a large part of the industrial production?

[Answer] The prices of imports are affected by two factors. The first is the drop in international prices. The world is currently experiencing a period of recession that is expected to last until 1985. Moreover, there are subsidy increases in order to control prices.

As for the open-door economy projects, they are not bound to be included in the pricing because they get their requirements at unsubsidized international prices. But what do these projects produce? Non-essential goods. The price of carbonated beverages has risen. So why doesn't the consumer buy the product offered by the public sector which is cheaper?

I would like to say here that what the production [sic] projects offer does not necessarily surpass in quality what the public sector offers. The opposite is true in many cases.

[Question] Let us turn to the private sector that controls entire segments, such as agriculture. Can the prices of this sector, which rejects the official pricing and control, be controlled?

[Answer] I believe that the prices of many of the products of this sector have been brought under control. The prices of vegetables, for example, have dropped. Isn't it so?

There is also the tendency to reduce the number of middlemen.

Generally, let me say that this aspect requires deeper solutions.

[Question] There remains another issue that needs clarification....

[Answer] Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid said: "We borrow to invest. The option before us is clear: The borrowing rate or the development rate. If we want to enhance development, then we have to borrow. When Britain wanted to double its growth rate after World War II, it did so [meaning resorted to borrowing]. The entire world, especially the poor world, is doing the same."

[Question] But how much do these loans amount to? ROSE AL-YUSUF brought up this issue in its previous edition and asked: "How can the declared figure be 2.069 billion pounds by the end of 1979 whereas the government had previously declared that Egypt's indebtedness amounts to 12 billion dollars?" I addressed this question to Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq.

[Answer] Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq smiled and clarified the matter in one line: This [2,069 billions] is the indebtedness for 1 year. So, both figures are correct. We are concealing nothing.

The interview ends, the matter becomes clearer and the challenge becomes one of turning the wheels to enhance the development rate and to increase reliance on the domestic resources. This is the "super challenge."

CSO: 4802

SEMINAR DISCUSSES HEALTH PROBLEMS

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 14 Jul 80 pp 11-14, 55

[Article: "ROSE AL-YUSUF Seminar: Roundtable Discussion on Your Health; Minister of Health: Private Treatment Consumes One Half Health Spending; All Those Who Died of Valley Fever Were People With Small Incomes; Dr Ramsis 'Abd-al-'Aziz: We Now Have Health Map for 22 Governorates; Dr Ahmad Safwat: Some Hospitals Treat Patients According to Nationality; Dr 'Ali Hijazi: Drug Sector Supports Budget, not Vice Versa; Dr Hasan Tawfiq: State Has Taken Health Insurance Surplus and They Have Accused Us of Failure"]

[Text] ROSE AL-YUSUF has put society's health and the Egyptian citizen's health on the dissection table. The magazine formed a team of its writers and editors and asked the minister of health to do the same thing so that a frank and constructive discussion may be held.

Representatives of the physicians had to join the discussion and so the Doctors General Union [came into the picture].

The discussion lasted throughout 4 complete hours, beginning with the citizen's nutrition and hospitals and ending with his medicine. The minister announced important news. The editors brought up a number of charges, the specialists discussed the future plans and we had this dialogue.

The seminar was opened by 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khamis who welcomed the minister and the participants and said: The seminar is not based on a working paper to that we may impose no restriction on the discussion. However, let us agree that the issue projected is the curative policy and the appropriate solutions. I beg the colleagues present to speak frankly so that we may reach an understanding that serves the public interest.

Mamduh Jabr: I will, in fact, start with headlines. If we review the problems in Egypt we find that they are numerous. We try, within the limits of our resources, to organize the work so as to reach solutions. Prevention generally, and I do not mean individual prevention, is linked to environmental problems which are largely connected with responsibilities that are outside the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health.

It is true that these problems require the intervention of the central authority. But the cry from the local authorities is always louder. The problems also require coordination in the sphere of implementation, especially in regard to the population growth which represents the number one problem and in regard to the standard of nutrition which represents the second problem. As a result of the first problem, the rate of what is available to the individual decreases whereas as a result of the second problem, the individual's immunity against disease is weakened.

If there is place for talking about nutrition, then there is the sphere of streamlining the expenditure on food because the Egyptian citizen takes in no less calories than the individual in the advanced countries. What is important is that there is a very strong link between the individual's nutritional condition and resistance to disease. We all know that bilharziasis and (englostoma) in a healthy [sic] person can be brought under control with a couple shots whereas in a person suffering from malnutrition, these diseases lead to an enlarged spleen and to death.

When the valley fever epidemic hit Egypt 2 years ago, all those who died as a result were people with middle and limited incomes whose nutritional condition weakens their resistance to disease.

This is insofar as the general problem of prevention and its various dimensions are concerned.

The sector second in importance is the basic healthcare sector. This is what the United Nations wants to achieve in all countries of the developing world by the year 2000. I say with utter pride that basic healthcare was started in the days of Dr 'Abd-al-Wahid al-Wakil who initiated this kind of healthcare in the countryside and wanted to have a basic healthcare unit in every village. Nowadays, any Egyptian village with a population of more than 9,000 people has a treatment unit. Very often, such units are found in villages and hamlets with a population of less than 5,000 people. The point in basic healthcare is to have the government provide the individual adequate prevention, adequate vaccination, adequate care during pregnancy and childbirth, adequate care against endemic diseases, health education and then an opportunity for the treatment of life-threatening emergency cases.

Our network [of basic healthcare units] has been very well-organized since the days of Dr al-Wakil, may God have mercy upon his soul, and was strengthened further in the days of Dr al-Nabawi, may God have mercy upon his soul. As minister of health, I have no opportunity to establish any more health units in the countryside because the units are there. The problem we have is a problem of the standard of performance. We must admit that this performance is not up to par. There are human problems and economic problems. Physicians consider them [basic units] a stepping stone over which they pass quickly or to which they go (unwillingly). The nurses, clerks and orderlies consider themselves the absolute rulers. A physician's

training is important. The youth have greater enthusiasm than we had in our day and the situation is improving. The problem is that their enthusiasm is faced with the bitter reality. The youth [young physician] finds that his training as a medical student was not geared toward dealing with the fundamental problems. This is why it has been important for us to train this youth before he enters this phase in the Ministry of Health and in its units. This is what we have tried this year and it has been successful at the central level.

The solution lies in the hands of the local governments and in establishing control over the physician and the unit to improve the standard of performance.

Then comes the emergencies sector. This is the responsibility of the state. This is why attention has been devoted to completing the first-aid radio communication networks throughout the republic. We have actually completed this work in a number of hospitals.

Free Treatment Is Problem

Explaining the dimensions of the medical treatment problem, the minister goes on to say:

As for treatment, it has become free of charge in name only. Consequently, most of those who can afford it seek private treatment for which some colleagues charge tens of pounds. Then there is the health insurance which was set up 20 years ago. Regrettably, this insurance has been able to provide services to only 1.5 million citizens throughout this period. There are new alternatives through which we are trying to revive health insurance by way of small participation by individuals in the costs of treatment.

In any case, one of the most prominent problems of the treatment sector is the economic problem. The appropriations are not sufficient under the shadow of this exorbitant inflation.

As for the drug sector, it is a feat for Egypt. The Egyptian citizen gets 81 percent of his medicines from the Egyptian drug industry. All kinds of vitamins and sulfa are produced in Egypt and drug prices have risen only by a few mills in the past 2 years. As for imported drugs, we benefit from them in treatment and the importers benefit by making their profits.

There is also the private treatment [medical care]. Regrettably, our planning in Egypt does not take into final account the role of private treatment. Private treatment, even in the countryside, represents in some statistics one half the spending. I will leave the issue of health spending to Dr Ramsis because he has conducted a pioneer experiment in this sphere on how much the individual spends and how much he pays for private treatment, including medicines.

Mahmud al-Maraghi: The seminar can deal with the problems of prevention, cure and medical education. I suggest that we, like his excellency the minister, start with the problem of nutrition and of the environment. There are observations made by the physicians, and these observations are probably supported by scientific facts, to the effect that diseases resulting from malnutrition are on the rise. Moreover, this issue is connected to the fact that 40 percent of the food in Egypt is imported and that some of the imported food poses a danger to the health of the citizen because of its unfitness for consumption or because it contains preservatives harmful to health. There is also the issue of environmental pollution resulting from certain industries, such as the fertilizer industry. We have heard about new methods to reduce this pollution but nothing has happened yet. There is no healthcare so far even for mine workers, including uranium mine workers and workers involved in nuclear activity.

'Abd-al-'Aziz Khamis: A People's Assembly factfinding mission has begun to investigate the situation.

Mahmud al-Maraghi: The question raised is: Where does the Ministry of Health stand vis-a-vis the problem of nutrition and of the environment? Does the ministry keep track of health development in Egypt, are we observing what is happening and does the health map have anything to do with this?

Fathi Ghanim: There is another start. We have heard a diagnosis from a skillful physician who, I believe, is fully trusted by many Egyptian mothers. The Egyptian family has been accustomed to going to him with its children to get the right diagnosis and the right treatment.

What has drawn my attention in the diagnosis are numerous words, such as "resources, the need for a loud voice and effective local governments." These words need to be discussed. The discussion itself supports these words and helps bring them to public attention because we are dealing with a very sensitive point, namely people's life and death. Our interest in this point is greater than our interest in what engineers, intellectuals and lawyers offer.

Let us make the discussion on this issue. The ministry is in a meeting with the press. Let the plan for the discussion seek to bring up the point of the local governments and of working with them, the point of resources and the point of the required picture of health education. When we bring up these points for general consultation we allow the public opinion to participate indirectly. As a result, constant ideas and inclinations may arise to strengthen the financial resources, for example. Thus, the matter stops being one of a minister succeeding with his influence to get the appropriations.

As for the local governments, the mere statement that powers have been transferred to the local governments because they are more capable to intervene directly is very great. But we would like this to be implanted in the minds of the executive officials and of those receiving the services. This should be done through discussing what seems to be axiomatic. From experience, the most difficult thing for man to accept is the axiomatic. We accept the axiomatic and think it is easy because it is axiomatic. But the matter is not so.

Dr Mamduh Jabr: I agree with the point of bringing up the axiomatic aspects of the problem. We can then deal with the solutions. It is possible to translate the goals into plans. The ministry's efforts in calculating rates and in taking stock of the resources will help enhance the resources. Insofar as the local governments are concerned, the issue is new. It is assumed that a physician is the closest person to a family. In this capacity, he is supposed to lead the village society. There is an improvement in the situation. At present, 50 percent of the young doctors do not wish to leave the villages in which they work.

Another issue: If we give power to the local governments, this will lead to serious control over performance. It is possible to solve the problems that arise between the local governments and the other leaderships. Therefore, the local governments will solve a large part of the problem if we put all matters in their hands.

A third point is that the credit of health education here is zero and its budget is very meager. The role of the scientific societies and of the inhabitants emerges in this sphere. When I speak about cries, I mean the cries of the Ministry of Health for a sound health education. The press can contribute, provided that it observe the scientific standard.

As for malnutrition in Egypt, a point which al-Maraghi has brought up, the social standard, the state of nutrition and the health standard are all improving tangibly. The death rate has dropped and the average lifespan has risen. The current average lifespan for men is 56.5 years and for women 58 years. Moreover, if there is malnutrition, then it shows first in children. My observation is that the situation is improving a lot. There are several factors that have had an effect on raising the average lifespan from 46 to 56 years in the past 10 years. The most important of these factors are the medical advance, the cultural progress and the social reform. The rate of malnutrition has also dropped from what it was in the past. This means that the situation has improved and this improvement is due to the state subsidy.

As for the environment and industrial pollution, a higher committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the minister of health. The costs of preventing pollution are not as enormous as some people imagine. As for the plants causing the pollution, we are trying to find the means to get rid of the harm caused by these plants in the next 6 years. This requires state planning to determine the priorities.

Mahmud al-Maraghi: Let us return to the issue of nutrition. Is your excellency confident that all the imported foodstuffs are fit for human consumption? Tons of meats and fishes have been destroyed. There are lawsuits against the Ministry of Supply and Foreign Trade. If we act tolerantly toward everything, there can be no guarantee toward any danger posed to the citizen's health.

'Abd-al-'Aziz Khamis: By the way, your excellency is a member of the Food Security Committee. What is the task of the Minister of Health in this particular committee?

Mamduh Jabr: Some people imagine that food security means supplying more meats, improving bread or supplying cheese. We say that the purpose of the food security is for the consumer to obtain food that make him healthy. The requirements of each group and groups are different from the requirements of other groups. Food experts find available alternatives make the responsibility of the Ministry of Health evident. There is planning but the difficulty lies in the fact that we are not yet used to the scientific approach.

Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab: We agree that man is the target of healthcare. In the Egyptian village, the role of the physician and of the specialist is completely absent. The teacher, the agricultural engineer and everybody else works without communication with the others. This is why we feel no benefit. There isn't a complete plan involving the ministries of health, agriculture, education, social affairs and the local governments.

A patient may search for a physician and die before he can find one.

There is the general observation that control and followup by the local governments are not strong and strict.

Insofar as the environment is concerned, there are two projects: A sea water desalination project in Sidi Karir and a fertilizer project in Abu Qir. Both projects are in residential areas and cause pollution.

Dr Mamduh Jabr: The rural development plan is the fundamental goal of the local governments. Coordination in this regard is necessary and control is indispensable. However, I do not think that a physician can be so late in visiting a patient to the point where the patient dies. This happens in one case only, namely the case of acute hemorrhage. In any case, the issue has its humanitarian aspect and the patient must feel that the physician cares and responds quickly.

As for projects polluting the environment, such as the nuclear energy project in Sidi Karir, the Ministry of Health has its view. It does not oppose the construction of such projects but it does place restrictions.

Ministry of Health Is Not Sole Responsible Authority

Dr 'Izz-al-Din Hashish: Insofar as protection is concerned, if we consider it as physical, psychological and social safety, then the major burden would fall on the shoulders of the Ministry of Health. As long as social safety is concerned, then the social and psychological specialist must have a role. If the role of the Ministry of Health is to provide social care, does the minister of health have the resources to do so? We must know that the responsibility of the Ministry of Health is confined to the physical aspect alone.

Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab: Then why shouldn't there be coordination between the ministries of health, social affairs and education?

Dr Mamduh Jabr: This is the role of the local governments and I cannot award or penalize. In the new law, we will place under the disposal of a unit chief enough cadres to help him coordinate the various threads.

Dr 'Izz-al-Din Hashish: Our hope is that the government will pay attention to the element of protection and that it will increase the number of people working in the protection agency because protection is better than cure. We don't get aware of the ministry's efforts except in cases of big emergencies, such as cholera outbreaks. The truth is that we should underline the ministry's success. Even though there have been cholera outbreaks around us, especially during the pilgrimage season, cholera has not entered Egypt.

As for protection against environmental pollutants, I speak as a specialist in this sphere for more than 20 years. A simple filter can prevent the pollution caused by many plants in Hulwan, such as the cement plant. But these plants refuse to install such filters because of their high costs. There is an important point concerning protection, namely periodic checkups on vocational diseases for all workers. This is what the social insurance does. As a result, the rate of such diseases has dropped to less than 1 percent throughout the republic.

Regarding what the minister has said about the wish to expand the health insurance, I can say that Alexandria is a special case. Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir Hospital is a big hospital with a well-known reputation. If we went to expand in Cairo, we must have a big hospital so that we may have an attractive facade. It is to be noted that whenever we talk about getting one of the hospitals for health insurance, they say no for fear that this or that side may be upset.

Regarding the training of physicians, especially young physicians, the minister has said that the physician serves in the countryside for 2 or 3 years until he finds a better place. So why doesn't the ministry set up a training program using video and cassette equipment and movie projectors and send them to the physicians so that they may keep up [with developments] wherever they are.

Regarding the doctor's right to open a [private] clinic, I say that this is the responsibility of the local governments, each according to its circumstances. We know that 70 percent of medical treatment in Egypt is private

treatment. For your information, the health insurance does not hurt private clinics. The clinics are doing good business. Let me make it clear that health insurance the way I understand it does not mean giving a little medicine to somebody with a cough or with a slight case of influenza. Health insurance the way I understand it means helping somebody who needs an operation that costs 2,000 pounds which he cannot afford or somebody who needs treatment abroad. It is here that the role of health insurance emerges.

Finally, I stress our gratitude and our thanks to the Egyptian drug sector because it is truly illustrious. I also underline our thanks to the pharmacists.

Intensive Care

Dr Ahmad Safwat: There are four kinds of medical care in Egypt--free care provided by the government and embodied in all the services supplied by the Ministry of Health. I must praise here the ministry's efforts in recent years, especially in regard to the emergencies sector, the first aid and communication networks, physician and medical training and the establishment of new sections for intensive care. I hope that intensive care will be provided free of charge. This is in addition to the preventive services in the health offices, rural units and the new health centers. All these sites supply free services to the citizens. Regarding free medical care in the hospitals of the Ministry of Health, the service in these hospitals is somewhat inadequate due to the lack of resources. The second kind is insurance medical care which has been provided by the Health Insurance Public Authority since 1964. There is also the curative establishment and the private medical care. There have been no actual additions to the health service, whether supplied by the health insurance or by the curative establishment. This means that the health insurance has added no units other than the 6 October Hospital. The curative establishment has taken control of the hospitals of the Charitable Association: Al-Shifa' Hospital, al-Ma'adi Hospital, Heliopolis Hospital and the Old Egypt Hospital.

I think that the hope attached to the health insurance is that it will cover the masses within 10 years.

As for the private clinics and hospitals, I find a big difference between the prices of the curative establishment and the private clinics. Insofar as health insurance is concerned, the person insured pays a part and the business owner pays a party. In the curative establishment, the patient pays everything, but in a (streamlined) manner. The four kinds of medical care are different. Even the health insurance takes ones form in Alexandria, another in al-Minufiyah and a third form in al-Sharqiyah. Why shouldn't it be unified and made to follow one pattern?

As for the private hospitals, their prices are very surprising. There are some hospitals that charge their patients different rates according to nationality because they have become like tourist hotels at times. Why don't we form a committee from the ministry and the union [of doctors] to calculate the costs of operation and draw up a list of rates for surgeries and for room charges so as to serve both the hospital owner and the patient.

As for free medical care in government hospitals, this care remains inadequate, regardless of what the government does, because of the lack of resources. I cannot imagine that the food that a patient needs costs only 20 piasters a day and that the medicine that he needs throughout the year is within the same limits.

The available resources are supposed to be channelled in the right direction. Insofar as free medical care is concerned, I find no objection to the government saying, for example: I have 500 beds in Banha Hospital. Of these, 250 beds are to be set aside for paying patients and from the income of these beds I will spend on the other 250 beds which will be free of charge.

Why shouldn't a committee be formed from the Ministry of Health and the union to calculate the operation costs and then formulate a convenient list of charge rates. Regardless of how hard the ministry concentrates its efforts, the care will remain inadequate due to the inadequacy of the resources. If the revenues from hospital tickets [sic] were spent on free medical care and as (bonuses) for the workers, the standard of service given the patient would improve.

Dr Mamduh Jabr: I hope that the press will not interpret the health problem in Egypt as the interest of the union youth in treatment [sic].

Dr Hasan Tawfiq: Insofar as the insurance is concerned, there has been, according to the statistics, an increase in the number of [hospital] beds, in the budget and in the number of floors. Moreover, there are comprehensive clinics in Alexandria and Cairo. We have developed these clinics which used to be small.

We supply 320 beds in Alexandria [Hospital], 187 beds in Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir Hospital and 180 beds in Karmuz Hospital. The Workers Health Establishment had nearly 130 beds and we spent 300,000 pounds on it in the 1960's and increased the number of beds to 240. This is in addition to 240 beds in the 6 October Hospital in Cairo.

We shouldn't forget that there were no comprehensive clinics--i.e., clinics with the philosophy of having all kinds of specialization in one place. We now have 17 such clinics in Alexandria, not to mention an optometric center in Cairo.

The social insurance system will be applied to the farmers in the rural units. The local government law will give the governorates the responsibility of setting the rates for medical service in the private hospitals.

Zaynab Hamdi: Is it more beneficial to build a hospital costing 20 million pounds or to spend the sum for prevention?

Dr Mamduh Jabr: I cannot answer the question. The state has to participate with the private sector in providing some kinds of medical service.

Zaynab Hamdi: Why aren't there in the countryside means of education that are more effective than the present means?

Dr Mamduh Jabr: The problem in the countryside is that clean water has been supplied to the villages but sewerage has not. To provide protection, latrines have to be built and these cost the state millions of pounds.

Zaynab Hamdi: But in return for these millions, we will save other millions in treatment costs, human loss and protection.

Dr Mamduh Jabr: There is a study that shows that the enormous cost. Why shouldn't lavatories, schools and clinics be built with the intrinsic efforts of the villages, especially since the farmer's income is bigger than that of an employee? We must use this high income to make it contribute to improving the village conditions.

Dr Mamduh Jabr [sic]: For the health insurance system to survive, it must be made compulsory for large numbers so that we may benefit from the insurance revenues. I cannot set up a unified health insurance system as long as individual incomes are not unified.

Map for Youth Health

The discussion had to move to another area, meaning a look at the future--beginning with the organization of data.

Dr Ramasis 'Abd-al-'Azim: Regarding the health map, its role and the philosophy on which it is based, this is summed up in that the map realizes the scientific approach toward planning in Egypt. Health planning is a part of the economic and social development planning. But in my view, health planning did not start correctly until we thought of drawing up a health map for Egypt. For the first time, we survey the health and disease condition of the population, the conditions of the environment surrounding them, their tendencies, their attitude toward the health service and so forth.

We have surveyed 12 governorates so far to familiarize ourselves with the actual health situation in Egypt. This will help us to plan and to formulate priorities for spending on protection and treatment.

Mahmud al-Maraghi: We have discussed the issue of nutrition. Daily evidence shows that the standard and components of nutrition in any Egyptian home are declining. Is there an answer from the samples collected from the 12 governorates?

Dr Ramsis: It is true that we have surveyed 12 governorates but emptying and analyzing the data is done by computer and this has not been completed yet.

Fathi Ghanim: I imagine that need is what pushed us toward planning. There were urgent problems and difficulties that we wanted to face and so we resorted to planning. The problem is that planning is more comprehensive

than this. Health is linked to economy, education, the military aspect and so forth. There is also the problem of the changing reality. A health map is prepared and results are reached and after the data is emptied and analyzed, it is found that values have changed and that unexpected changes have taken place.

There is a big possibility that the picture will change. When I asked the Americans who are providing the financing and who are preparing a map which they started in 1965 about the overrun in time, they said that it is 2.5 years. Therefore, I am better off than they are because I have my calculations on this and they are less than (their estimate). The issue of time and the suitability of the data for use is also taken into consideration.

Dr 'Izz-al-Din Hashish: I hope that we will define whether there is a lack of nutrition or malnutrition because healthy food consists of basic elements. Various age groups require different nutrition. Lack of nutrition is different from malnutrition.

I have a question on the importance of coordination between the Ministry of Health and the other state agencies because the Ministry of Health cannot do all this by itself.

Drugs and Their Prices

Mahmud 'Abdal-Wahhab: I have a short observation. On 1 May [1980], the Higher Council of the Drug Sector held a meeting and emerged with a recommendation that drug prices not be touched. At the same time, new drug prices were being posted and causing costs of medicines to rise exorbitantly.

Dr 'Ali Hijazi: I will answer you with a very simple and convincing reason. There is no doubt that the drug companies face a very difficult equation. The price is of a unit (D.S) exceeds its [sic] price by 30 percent at least because 90 percent of the chemical substances from which we manufacture the drugs are imported and their prices are rising constantly. Take the production requirement. We used to purchase the empty tube for eye ointment for 17 mils in the past and now we buy it for 9 piasters and the tube of ointment is now sold for 12 piasters. Another example is the empty glucose (unit which used to be sold for 18 piasters). Locally, they have raised the price of glycerin and of cotton, even for the drug companies.

Despite this, they ask the drug companies to make profits. Some prices have been raised but we have not touched the prices of any heart, diabetes or asthma medicines.

His excellency the minister has said that the state has advanced a subsidy of 6 million pounds. No, the state has not given me a single mil. The state has taken from me 12 million pounds in profits and has given me 6 million pounds, keeping in mind that the state also collects from the drug sector 12.5 million pounds in treasury fees. Remove this treasury fee from my back

[I tell the state but it says] no. The state collects from me a thousand other things as if I were an investment company. The important thing is that I say that we must all act in solidarity and support the public sector to enable it to stand on its own feet.

Dr Ahmad Safwat: I thank Dr 'Ali Hijazi for the point that he has brought up, namely that the prices of the drugs that concern a large part of the people should not be moved [upward]. It is not necessary that the drug companies make profits on their medicines insofar as the health insurance [patients] are concerned. I wonder why hasn't the health insurance built a hospital in the past 10 years at a time when the state treasury gets so many millions from the insurance sector annually? It is better to build a hospital than to have the money in the form of state revenues. The construction of a hospital constitutes a good and distinguishing facade for the health insurance and is better than seizing already existing hospitals.

Dr 'Izz-al-Din Hashish: I have a question for Dr Hasan Tawfiq: Has the health insurance incurred any losses since 1964 and up to the present. In other words, has it saddled the state with any burdens?

Dr Hasan Tawfiq: No, it has been supplying the state with a surplus. We used to fight in the Ministry of Finance until the 1975 law was issued and the health insurance was turned into an independent fund. Three months ago, there was a surplus of 5 million pounds in the [fund's] budget!

The hour neared midnight and the problems were still being discussed by those present. But can we discuss all the health problems in one session?

This is impossible and this is why the discussion was mere headlines and an inlet to ideas.

[Box on Page 13] Participants in Seminar:

Dr Mamduh Jabr, the minister of health.

Dr 'Ali Hijazi, chairman of the Pharmacists Union.

Dr Hasan Tawfiq 'Awad, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Health Insurance Authority.

Dr Ramsis 'Abd-al'Alim, undersecretary of Ministry of Health and official in charge of the health map.

Dr 'Izz-al-Din Hashish, member of the Doctors Union Council.

Dr Ahmad Safwat, secretary of Doctors Unions.

From ROSE AL-YUSUF:

'Abd-al-'Aziz Khamis.

Fathi Ghanim.

Mahmud al-Maraghi.

Zaynab Hamdi.

Majdi Muhanna.

Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab.

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DATA GIVEN ON PENSIONS PAID IN FIRST HALF OF 1980

Cairo Al-AKHBAR in Arabic 25 Jul 80 p 4

[Excerpts] During the first half of this year, 203.8 million pounds were paid in the form of pensions and retirement compensation. This is compared to 140.2 million pounds paid during the same period of 1979, an increase of 45.3 percent. These payments were made to approximately 1.7 million Egyptian citizens.

This is revealed in a report discussed by Dr Amal 'Uthman, the minister of social insurance and social affairs, with senior officials of the insurance sector, in the course of a review of results achieved during the first half of this year.

Samir Mitawalli, first undersecretary of social insurance, said that according to the report, 267.3 million pounds were collected in social insurance dues during the first 6 months of this year, as compared to 250.4 million pounds for the same period last year. This represents a 6.5 percent increase.

During the first 6 months of this years, 259.7 million pounds were loaned to the Social Insurance Investment Fund, which was replaced by the National Investment Bank as of 1 July 1980. In comparison, 232.7 million pounds were loaned during the same period of 1979, and 11.6 percent increase. This money has been channeled into financing development plan projects incorporated into the national budget.

The Nasir Community Bank achieved a record in terms of transfers of ownership of various means of production and different types of tractors and vehicles to Egyptian citizens including craftsmen and farmers. Total transfers of this type for the first half of this year amounted to 39.6 million pounds, compared to 17.7 million pounds for the same period of last year. This represents a 123 percent increase. The volume of community loans made to citizens was 8.8 million pounds. The recipients were 35,000 government and public sector employees, pensioners, and students in universities and institutions of higher learning.

Religious alms collection committees organized by the Nasir Community Bank, which number 12,000 committees throughout the country, collected a total of 500,000 pounds in voluntary donations.

The undersecretary of social insurance added: "Follow-up reports clearly indicate the availability of effective insurance coverage for all citizens covered by the social insurance laws currently in effect. Insurance coverage is being extended to all as planned. The number of individuals directly or indirectly covered by this insurance will total 40 million citizens by the end of this year."

The minister of social insurance has directed that all social insurance offices strive to immediately pay Sadat pensions in all cases in which it is ascertained that individuals are entitled to them. The minister ordered enlisting the help of branches and mobile units of the Nasir Community Bank, and of banks in the villages where the pensioners live, so as to eliminate the problem of crowding in commercial banks and post offices. This is to be done to make things easy for the pensioners, in consideration of their advanced age.

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CSO: 4802

MINISTER OF AWQAF INTERVIEWED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Jun 80 p 3

[Interview With Dr Zakariya al-Barri, Minister of Awqaf, by 'Abd-al-'Ati Hamid; "Era of Tampering With Monies of Muslims Has Ended; Communists, and Russia Behind Them, Are Cause of Deviation; New Rules for Distribution of Awqaf Apartments; Firm Measures Against Delinquents; Putting an End to Chaos in Mosque Podiums"]

[Text] The talk about deviation in the Awqaf Authority is extensive and includes such things as the presence of thefts, embezzlement, deviation in the distribution of apartments, deviation in the Higher Islamic Affairs Council and deviation in the distribution of Awqaf lands.

The man in charge of awqaf in Egypt answers: The era of tampering has ended. There will be new rules. Firm measures will be taken. An end will be put to chaos. Our youth are well. Ninety nine percent of our Muslim youth believe in the principles of Islam and are of good character and morals. We have drawn up plans to protect the youth against destructive ideas. We will not permit Egypt to be turned into another Lebanon.

[Question] What is the task of the minister of awqaf and is the position necessary?

[Answer] If the Ministry of Awqaf is abolished, who will take charge of investing the awqaf [trusts] of the Muslims? Moreover, who will take care of the mosques and support the Islamic call? There has to be somebody in charge of this, regardless of the title he takes. According to tradition and to the Shari'a rules, this supreme head of the state is the man in charge of the Islamic awqaf and he is the one who selects a minister to assist him, to shoulder the ministerial responsibility and to follow up on planning and implementation. This is why the Ministry of Awqaf was established and why the Awqaf Authority was formed under its control.

[Question] But don't you agree with me that there has recently been increasing talk about the presence of thefts and embezzlement in the Awqaf Authority and that this has hurt the reputation of the Ministry of Awqaf which has thus violated the purpose for which it was set up, namely to preserve the monies of the Muslims?

[Answer] No system whatsoever can be free of those who exploit and spoil it.

Insofar as the usurped awqaf lands are concerned, my position is that I will get back what can be regained legally. As for what cannot be regained legally, I will declare the name of whoever has caused the loss so that he may be subjected to a moral trial. The same thing will apply to the Higher Islamic Affairs Council and to the distribution of apartments. There are flagrant examples of exploitation of the state. The rights of the state must be regained and we cannot permit exploitation of the monies of the Muslims.

Regrettably, some groups and individuals have begun to seize the capital of the awqaf, at times in the name of Islam and at others through influence. If this situation continues, the awqaf monies in Egypt will be thus completely lost.

[Question] What have you done regarding the delinquency cases already seized?

[Answer] I believe that the cases of delinquency [phrase indistinct] that have taken place and that will take place will drop sharply. There will then remain a few with whom the lenient approach will be of no use and who have to be dealt with differently, namely be branded with fire, meaning that there have to be a deterrent and effective cure so that delinquents may then provide an example for others.

I Deliberated in Selection

[Question] What about the future of the Higher Islamic Affairs Council and about the awqaf apartments and lands?

[Answer] Insofar as the Higher Islamic Affairs Council is concerned, its membership will be announced shortly and it will constitute the biggest grouping of Egyptian Islamic thinkers. I hope to succeed in absorbing them. This council will have an executive committee and scientific and administrative agencies. As for the members from outside Egypt, I have proceeded deliberately in selecting them even though I know many of them welcome joining Egypt's Islamic leadership.

As for the awqaf apartments, I have reached the maximum in Islamic application, religious control, secular control and popular control in the distribution of apartments by forming a committee in which all kinds of expertise and all levels are represented so that it may conduct deliberations that realize justice. The decisions will be then made by majority and will be declared to the public. The vacant apartments will also be made known to the public. It is the right of any citizen to apply for occupying one of these apartments. The committee will also make known the reasons why it has given an apartment to this and not that person. The Islamic Research Council, the People's Assembly, the Ministry of Housing, the press, radio and television, the Union of Imams and the Union of the Ministry of Awqaf

Workers are represented in the committee. The committee will have rules for the distribution of apartments and these rules will be announced to the people. Frankly, the era of chaos in the distribution of awqaf apartments has gone forever and everything will be according to rules and regulations from now on.

Religious Vacuum

[Question] The delinquency by a small number of youth, be it religious, political or moral, is due, according to the experts, to the presence of a religious vacuum. What is your opinion in this regard and what has the ministry done to protect the youth against this vacuum?

[Answer] The ministry has begun to take positive steps in the sphere of youth guidance. The overwhelming majority of the youth believe, God be thanked, in the principles of Islam and are of good character and morals. I feel confident about our youths. Before becoming minister of awqaf, I was a professor at the Cairo al-Zaqaziq and al-Mansurah law colleges. It is my opinion that the youth abiding by the Islamic principles represent 99.9 percent of all youth. The heart of the matter is that there are some who have gone to excess in their abidance and have understood Islam to mean sternness, fanaticism, grinness and the imposition of views on others and so forth. Dialogue, such as the dialogue between a teacher and his students, will succeed with some of these people. Many of them have actually come to understand the right path. There will only remain a few who are ignorant, who disregard the facts or who are communist agents hiding behind the mask of religion--a mask which has been revealed and exposed. The state knows enough of the past secrets and news of this mask to be able to uncover and expose it. Communism has despaired of the possibility of getting the Egyptian people to follow it because this people has refused communism by virtue of its atheism and of its denial of God and because communism is oppressive, demonic and malicious toward mankind. Communism has sought to burn our backs, to sow hostility and hatred among us and to instigate a civil war between those called the toilers and those called the capitalists, not knowing that Islam has called for a social justice based on love, fraternity, tolerance and compassion and not for the accursed and hateful Marxism which advocates malice, hatred, rancor and sabotage. We have drawn up a plan to wipe it [communism] out and we have planned many programs to protect our youth from it.

Mosque in Every Quarter

[Question] What are these programs?

[Answer] President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat has instructed that a mosque be opened in every quarter for material [sic] culture and spiritual culture and to embody the greatness of Islam--a mosque to which the young go to memorize the Koran and the old go to study it. The mosque is also to contain a university for religious and secular sciences and is to be the place in which a quarter population meets in love and cooperation.

[Question] You have said on this occasion [sic] that you will ban any preacher or imam who does not follow the charted path and who tries to exploit the masses' hardship to realize personal leadership or use it to serve differences between himself and others and that you will stand firmly in the face of such a preacher or imam. How will you do this?

[Answer] When the seeds of such cases appeared in past centuries, the Hanafi rite ruled that only the supreme ruler or his representative can deliver the Friday sermon and lead the people because it is unimaginable in any creed or any religion to have mosque podiums exploited for personal opinions or to have one preacher attack another and then have a third and a fourth preacher get involved in the fight. Under such conditions, the group of Muslim preachers is divided and the Muslim is subjected to opposed and conflicting views contradicting one another. This is the goal of communism.

Mosques, Not Parties

This is prohibited and keeping silent over such a situation means keeping silent over a religious duty. We cannot permit differences and villification among mosque imams. We also cannot permit the mosques to be turned into parties, we cannot permit each imam to turn into a party representative and we cannot permit anybody to exploit the mosques to realize personal gains. This is forbidden and both religion and the state are against it. I say forbidden and we will confront such behavior with utter firmness and strictness.

[Question] This is possible for the mosques that are under the control of the Ministry of Awqaf. But what will you do regarding the private and small mosques which are widespread?

[Answer] The plan we are preparing for the future and which has not been made public yet--AKHBAR AL-YAWM will be the first to reveal this plan--is to have a board of directors to take care of and tend to every mosque, regardless of how big or small. The Ministry of Awqaf will help this board as much as possible and will supply it with people capable of preaching and guidance. The role of this board will be to preserve a mosque's podium and not to allow every ignoramus to climb it, regardless of whether such a person's ignorance is simple ignorance, in the sense that the person is ignorant and knows that he is ignorant, or compounded ignorance, meaning that the person is ignorant and doesn't know that he is ignorant--and God protect us.

[Question] Mr Minister, what have you done or will do in this regard to protect the imams from intruders? In other words, what is the ministry's plan to improve the standard of the preachers and of the imams?

With Wisdom and Benevolent Exhortation

[Answer] I have instructed the Directorates of the Call in the governorates to ask every imam who finds in himself the ability to deliver the unified Friday sermon from the radio and television station to take his chance so that the Muslim nation may hear him. I have also instructed the Directorates of the Call to ask every imam to present the sermons he has for dealing with the masses' problems with wisdom and benevolent exhortation and then to send copies of these sermons to the ministry so that it may deliver them to the Higher Islamic Affairs Council in order to publish them in books. We will thus realize both material and moral benefits for the preacher and the imam.

[Question] Frankly, what is the ministry's position toward the Islamic groups?

[Answer] We can reach an understanding with the Islamic groups that understand the Islamic Shari'a and the goals of Islam and that work for the interest of Islam. We can reach an understanding with these groups through wisdom, benevolent exhortation and kind words and we will agree as long as our goal is what is right. As for the few that want to impose themselves and their opinion on society and on the law, I hope none of them will remain because if these groups permit themselves to impose their opinion by force, other groups will rise to oppose them and to also impose their opinion by force. Then a third group may rise to impose its opinion on the preceding ones. This is a situation that no man can imagine and that no creed can condone. It is the kind of chaos that must be fought immediately.

Another Lebanon...No

[Question] By the way, what is your opinion of those who try to agitate sectarian sedition and what is the ministry's role in this regard?

[Answer] We will not permit Egypt to be turned into another Lebanon. We will confront sectarian sedition with utter firmness and severity. Some of them have depended on the loving mother that has given them weapons with which to strike their brothers and kinsmen. This loving mother is Russia which has sought to stir a war of annihilation among the area's peoples. Frankly, sectarian sedition is a communist means that must be cut off. Anybody who tries to ignite sectarian sedition must be brought to account. The state must not at all permit this.

[Question] Ramadan is around the corner. What is the ministry's plan in this regard?

[Answer] I have held a seminar at the Higher Islamic Affairs Council and invited to it the ministers of supply and of health to provide guidance in the month of Ramadan which was turned by some of the previous governments into a month of consumption in which only certain kinds of foods are eaten. This is happening at a time when Islam wants Ramadan to be a month that

elevates people above their cravings. Those [governments] wanted to distort the month of Ramadan and to contradict the purpose of Islam. They turned it into a month of cravings and food. This is incompatible with the majesty and greatness of the month of Ramadan, considering that it is the eye of the Islamic constitution.

In Ramadan, the president will hold several meetings with the Muslim youth in the Islamic associations, led by the Muslim Youth Association with its branches in the various provincial capitals. I will attend these meetings. Similar meetings will also be held in the centers of the Democratic National Party. I will have with me officials from the ministry and from the party to discuss with the youth all their religious and secular affairs.

Youth, Not Brotherhood

[Question] Frankly, I have heard that the purpose of your meetings in the Muslim youth associations is to turn these associations against the Muslim Brotherhood and that you want to rely in the future on the Muslim youth associations and not on the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Answer] All the Muslim associations agree with the Muslim Youth Association and there is no disagreement over it. We find no differences in these associations. I had an experience a year ago. I met with the youth of the Muslim Youth Association in Alexandria and then with the chairmen of all the religious and social associations in Alexandria. They all attended the meeting without any exception. We had a discussion on how to improve the religious call, how to unite its word and how to prevent the exploitation of subsidiary issues and differences because such exploitation divides the word of Islam.

No Surprise

[Question] You have declared that there will be an imminent surprise. What is this surprise? Any hints about it?

[Answer] It is not a surprise in the ordinary sense. All the decisions that lead to strictness and to firmness are a surprise for those who try to provoke seditions in society. The decisions that will enhance the religious call are a surprise to the doubters who try to spread the rumors that the government is not concerned with religion or with the implementation of the Islamic Shari'a.

Any excellent, serious and purposeful action seeking to serve Egypt is a surprise to those who work against Egypt. In any case, if I tell you what the surprise is, will it be a surprise any longer? But I believe that you have understood what I mean by the surprise. It is a number of regulations and decisions aimed at strengthening and enhancing the religious call so that Egypt may flourish and become the Islamic world's capital yesterday, today and tomorrow.

RADIO AND TELEVISION UNION CHAIRMAN INTERVIEWED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Jul 80 p 3

[Interview With Safwat al-Sharif, Radio and Television Union Chairman, by 'Isam Hashish; "First Interview With Radio and Television Union Chairman; First Organizational Structure for Radio and Television Union; Next February, Egypt's Voice Will Be Heard Strongly Throughout World; Phenomenon of Imported Series Will Disappear and Television Theater Will Reappear"]

[Text] From a room in the eighth floor in the radio and television building, Safwat al-Sharif, the new chairman of the Radio and Television Union, has issued a number of important decisions. All the decisions seek to change the form and philosophy of information work in this important agency.

The first of these decisions provides for creating the first Radio and Television Union structure having the fundamental task of serving the information work. The decisions also provide for the separation and independence of the two television channels, for the construction of the biggest radio broadcasting station in the Middle East and for plans to have both the camera and the microphone work together to transmit the pulse of the Egyptian man-in-the-street honestly and objectively.

Safwat al-Sharif also announces a number of other decisions in an exclusive interview with AL-AKHBAR.

The spectator or listener may feel that the standard of the radio and television programs offered weakens at times. He may blame this on the failure of the officials in charge of these agencies to understand him and to respond to his needs.

But this time the change starts at the roots and rises to build a technical and administrative entity that guarantees the public good-quality programs, that uses all the resources to enhance the public's taste and thinking and that seeks to meet this public's needs.

Information Work First

[Question] I asked the Radio and Television Union chairman about his philosophy on running the most important information agency in the state.

[Answer] My philosophy is based on an important need, namely to subjugate all the agencies and sectors in the radio and television premises to serve the information work in the manner that realizes our goals. In the light of this principle, an organizational structure will be formed for the Radio and Television Union for the first time on the basis of information mentality and thinking so that the information work map may form the basis of the information work and so that the organizational structure may be made to serve this basis.

(Al-Sharif added): A comparative study has already been conducted on our system and the systems of the London B.B.C. and of the French television. Before the middle of August, the union will have an organizational structure consisting of new and distinctive forms and sectors and including the various agencies of the general secretariat. The union chairman who controls this secretariat does not need 1,500 employees to work in it. The general secretariat should serve both the radio and the television branches of the information work.

Biggest Station in Middle East

[Question] In the light of this philosophy, what is your visualization of the form of the service [that should be performed] in this important agency?

[Answer] To start with, the broadcasting service should reach the targeted public. This will be our second task after forming the organizational structure. Regrettably, our voice is not heard in the remote parts of the republic and is not clear in the Arab and European countries. The problems experienced by radio broadcasting are also experienced by television broadcasting. Therefore, the projects to strengthen the transmission and booster stations must be reconsidered with the aim of greater strength and range. This is why I issued a few days ago a decision to change the wavelengths of four stations, namely Voice of the Arabs, the general program station, the Hebrew program station and the Koran broadcasting station. This decision will go into effect as of the middle of August. The wavelengths [mawjat] of these stations will be raised from 450 kilowatts to 2,000 kilowatts [sic], i.e. by more than fourfold. We will thus have the biggest radio broadcasting station in the Middle East. Construction of this station with its new power will take nearly 6 months. It is likely that the transmission will weaken during these months but we can then proceed to address the fraternal Arab peoples.

(Al-Sharfit further adds): The Arab Action Paper presented by President al-Sadat stresses the need to address the Arab peoples over the head of their rulers who have not understood the Egyptian peace initiative. This is a 100 percent information task and this goal cannot be realized without new stations that make it easy for the Arab citizen to hear Egypt's voice clearly and strongly.

Camera and Microphone in Heart of Egyptian Street

The information service is also based on a philosophy that seeks to transmit the pulse of the masses through the radio and television and through presenting the problems faced by the Egyptian man-in-the-street. This requires the base to be in contact with the top through the camera and the microphone so that the dialogue may not be one-sided. We will see shortly more programs that convey what is on the mind of the man-in-the-street with real democracy. This will be controlled by a code of honor among the reporters in this regard. A committee comprised of experts, specialists and public figures will be formed to draw up a code of honor which every radio and television worker will take the oath to respect. There will be a new penalty for whoever violates this code. If the information worker is not honest with the masses, he will be penalized by being denied appearance on the television screen or standing behind the microphone for a period of 6 months. I mean by dishonesty the failure to observe the genuine Egyptian values or the transmission of a false picture of the events. Dishonesty also covers the information man who obviously seeks to undermine social peace and national unity. We shoulder the responsibility of preserving this peace and unity through our contact with the masses. Any information person who fails to shoulder this responsibility will face the union's special committee for the protection of values which will decide what to do regarding the violations committed by an information worker.

News Cast

[Question] On more than one occasion, the president of the republic has stressed the need to devote attention to the news casts and to develop the live programs dealing with the problems of the Egyptian man-in-the-street. What are your plans for developing these programs?

[Answer] The news cast is the window through which the citizen looks at the most important local, national and international events by way of either the radio or the television. I am making preparations at present for the organization of a new central office into which all the news reports flow and from which these reports will be distributed to the service stations. Each station will then select the reports that suit its activities and inclination so that the news cast in one station may not be a replica of the cast in another station. Voice of the Arabs, for example, devotes special attention to the Arab news, the general program devotes such attention to the national news and the Voice of the People [idha'at al-sha'b] devotes a large segment for local news. Each station will write its news cast and there will be in each station a political officer in charge of this work. We will very shortly hear the news transmitted live from the site of the event and the reporters will be supplied with equipment that enables them to transmit the events live on location and to interview the decision-makers in a democratic manner which the listener will hear and which will enable this listener to comprehend the dimensions of the events.

Separation of Two Channels Cancelled Idea of Commercial Station

[Question] It has been announced that there is an idea to establish a commercial television station through subscriptions. Do you think that there is any need for this idea in view of the separation of channels one and two?

[Answer] I do not think that there is need for this station. If we find that the Egyptian viewer needs it, then we will set it up without subscriptions. The separation of channels one and two will produce a variety in the information material [television programs] which, I think, will satisfy all viewers. Channel one will have its distinctive political and official quality, in addition to certain doses of cultural and recreational programs which it will present and which will be different from what channel two presents. Each channel will have its own theater, choral and musical groups and studio. We will restore to the television theater the show and operetta programs. To put it briefly, each of the two channels will be youthful [shabbah] and will have a fast tempo and taste that will attract large numbers of viewers. There will also be honorable competition for subject matter, performance and stars. Moreover, the television chairman and the union chairman will take part with the heads of the various sectors in drawing up plans and in coordinating the programs of each channel.

Phenomenon of Imported Series About to End

[Question] In the recent period, a new phenomenon has spread, namely that of showing large numbers of imported series and works whereas most of those in charge of (the programs) are Egyptian artists. How can the Egyptian television regain its glorious past in this sphere of production?

[Answer] This phenomenon will disappear completely with the disappearance of the big gap between the wages paid by the television and the rival companies. We will raise the wages we pay and from now on, the cost and performance level of every television production will not be below that of any company's production. An economic study has actually been conducted on the cost of producing series and programs and of distributing them to stations that broadcast in Arabic. On the basis of this study, I can say confidently that this phenomenon will disappear and we will have a sufficient asset with which to invade the Arab stations. I have recently issued a decision modifying the stocks [usul] of the Audio-Visual Company and redistributing these stocks between the company and the television. As of the beginning of September, the company will operate through Studio 10 and the Pocket Theater Studio and control over Studio 1 and Studio 5 will be transferred to the television sector. The decision also provides for the first time for setting production rates for both the television and the company. It has been decided to raise television productions from 100 to 450 hours. Even though this is costly, we have taken the marketing of this production into strong consideration. The Audio-[al-sawtiyat] Company will produce 300 hours as a minimum of which 240 hours will be designed to meet the needs of the Egyptian and the Arab screen and 60 hours will consist of distinctive joint artistic productions designed to revive the vast Egyptian heritage.

One-Million Pound Loan

(Al-Sharif added): The financing of the Audio Company has, regrettably, faced obstacles that almost brought the company to a halt. This is why it has been decided to finance the company with one million pounds every 3 months as a production loan from the television's financial sector to provide it with liquidity, provided that the company submit a report on what is produced during this period and that it settle at the end of the fiscal year all the financial relations between itself and the union's various sectors.

Another decision which I have issued provides for the economic sector to market the production of all the sectors under the union's control. I have also issued a decision providing for Studio 5 to produce plays, shows, spectator programs and operettas. The television theater, which used to accommodate 2,000 spectators, will be thus revived. The television theater will also have seasons which will be announced in advance and the door will be thus opened for young talents to rise to stardom.

Chief Announcer Instead of Undersecretary

A special committee has also been formed to draw up new bylaws for the workers, to draw up new promotion regulations and to reclassify the grades, giving them professional names. Thus, the rank of general director, undersecretary, general supervisor and others will be discarded and replaced by announcer, first announcer, chief announcer and so forth. The bylaws will also set the right work allowances for each of the union's workers. There will also be a central procurement committee to determine the priorities of what has to be purchased so that each sector may not purchase what it wants independently. The sight of the male or female announcer carrying a recording set on his shoulder, for example, must disappear. We must understand the obstacles facing the work and must overcome them in order to realize the best performance.

[Question] In the month of Ramadan, the public's interest in radio and television intensifies. What new things will you offer this year?

[Answer] I have left it to the radio and television chiefs to determine the programs and to coordinate what each agency offers. In fact, they are exerting super efforts to please the public in this month. This is why I say that our programs this year are unique, harmonious and different from past years. However, I would rather leave it to the heads of each agency to talk about the programs. But I will say, for example, that religious programs this year will amount to 37.5 percent and will be presented in a very interesting way. The viewers will see shaykhs al-Sha'rawi, al-Baquri and other prominent Koran readers. They will also see new films and plays shown on the screen for the first time. The television chief has exerted noteworthy and commendable efforts in this regard.

Nelly's Puzzles Only

(Question) What about the puzzles?

(Answer) Mrs. Salim al-Mohandis has decided to cancel the puzzles program this year. I have discussed the matter with her and I have agreed with her decision because the purpose of these programs is to enhance the general taste of the public. The radio has prepared a number of excellent programs which the listener will hear and enjoy. As for the television, it has been decided to keep the program of "Nelly's Puzzles" only and I will leave it to the viewer to pass his judgment on these puzzles. The television and radio will also broadcast live four night variety shows in Ramadan, one each Thursday from a public club or from Abu-al-Hawl [Sphinx] Theater. For the first time also, television transmission will be delayed to start at 1900 so that we may give the radio the opportunity to present its vital programs during the fast-breaking period. The morning transmission will continue now that the experiment has proven to be successful. This period will be injected with programs that suit all tastes.

8496

CSO: 4802

NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SITE SHIFTED AWAY FROM URBAN AREAS

Cairo AL-AHRAM . Cable 24 Jul 80 p 11

[Text] On 1 August, a final decision will be made concerning the site of the nuclear power plant which will be built in al-Dab'ah district [in the province of Matruh]. This is in compliance with directives given by President Sadat in response to a request by political and executive leaders of the province of Alexandria last year not to locate the plant in the Sidi Karir district. The request was made following the nuclear reactor accident in the state of Pennsylvania, in the U.S. The accident raised the issue of the potential threat posed by such nuclear plants to the lives of citizens, when such plants are built in densely populated areas.

At the end of this month, the province of Matruh will be hosting a delegation of French and Egyptian atomic energy experts who will undertake the task of determining the site of the nuclear power plant.

In determining the site of the plant, consideration will be given to building it far from densely populated areas and close to sites of industrial and agricultural projects which will be supplied with electric power from the nuclear plant.

An authoritative source has stated that the most important mission of the nuclear plant will be to help provide irrigation water and electricity. Experimental farms will be set up over an area of 10,000 feddans in the fertile area of Wadi Fukah in al-Dab'ah district, which is located halfway between Matruh and Alexandria. This will be in preparation for expanded use of sea water, after it is desalinated by the nuclear plant, in irrigation and cultivation along the northwestern coast.

Professors of botany from the colleges of agriculture in Egyptian universities will conduct a number of experiments at these experimental farms to prepare a plan for crop cultivation for subsequent adoption.

The nuclear plant will be linked to the country's national electric power network to help the country deal with its increasing need for electricity and to supply the new, growing cities, as well as the cities of the province of Alexandria with electricity.

The cost of building the nuclear plant will be \$360 million. Its total capacity will be 600 megawatts. It will be second, in terms of capacity, to the High Dam power plant, the capacity of which is 2,100 megawatts.

9468

CSO: 4802

RAILROAD AGENCY RENAMED, NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINTED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 25 Jul 80 p 4

[Text] Engineer Sulayman Mitawalli, the minister of transport, communication, and maritime transport, has issued a decision forming a new board of directors for the railroads agency. This follows promulgation of the new law establishing the National Egyptian Railroads Agency, to replace the current Public Railroads Agency.

The decision appoints the current board chairman, Engineer 'Abd al-Mun'im Hishmat as chairman of the new board, and appoints Engineer Dhu al-Himma al-Sharqawi, Engineer Mustafa Hisan and Engineer Hanafi 'Abd al-Sami', as vice-chairmen.

The new board of directors will include as member, Mahmud 'Atitu Ahmad, head of the National Union of Railroad Workers. The board will also include the following members, for their expertise, for a period of 2 years: Engineer Sulayman 'Abd al-Hayy, former minister of transport; Muhammad Rashwan, member of the People's Assembly; Maj Gen Muhammad Fu'ad Mujahid, Quartermaster of the Armed Forces; Engineer Muhammad al-Sayyid Isma'il, undersecretary of economy; Muhammad 'Abduh, undersecretary of finance; Fu'ad Abu Za'lah, president of the Iron and Steel Co; Engineer Kamal Hishmat, first undersecretary of the ministry of transport; Dr Muhammad al-Huwari, professor at the Cairo School of Engineering; and Engineer Fa'iq Farid, commissioner of the Electric Distribution Co.

The new board will hold its first meeting on Sunday, 27 July.

9468

CSO: 4802

NEW LAWS EXPECTED TO EASE CEMENT, HOUSING CRISIS

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Jun 80 p 3

[Article by Mahmud Murad: "First Step To Solve Crisis in Construction Materials and Housing Will Begin Today, How? To Eliminate Black Market, Unified Cement Price That Doesn't Apply to Luxury Housing; Raising Pre-1952 Rents and Eliminating Reductions Taking Place Afterwards; Apartment Belongs to Tenant Who Has Right to Give It Up; Owner Responsible for Maintenance"]

[Text] Beginning today and throughout the month of July, a number of new decrees and laws representing the start of a revolution in the world of construction and housing with the basic changes that they will introduce in the prices of construction materials and with the subsequent boosting of the construction movement, as well as the changes they will introduce in housing rents, in the landlord's relationship with the tenant--changes that will lead to stability and to ending the disputes in this sphere. All of this will result in elimination of the black market, and of the phenomenon of key money and of advance rent.

It has been decided to set a uniform price for cement at the rate of 31 pounds per ton, to eliminate the subsidized price and to fix the price of iron. As for housing rents, the views are inclined toward raising them by a rate reaching 100 percent and by two to three percent for modern housing. New housing rents will, according to the studies, be subject to the decisions of rent setting committees. Moreover, a financial subsidy will be given to every landlord for every housing unit he builds in order to encourage him to contribute toward solving the housing problem on the basis of the principle that "neither the tenant nor the landlord should be done an injustice. Society in its entirety, represented by the state, should shoulder the responsibility."

These decrees will be issued in succession. The first to be issued will be a decree setting a uniform price for cement at the rate of 31 pounds per ton. This decree means the start of a revolution in the world of construction that is liable to boost the construction and reconstruction operations, to eliminate the black market and to affect in a fundamental manner the phenomenon of key money and of advance rent to which landlords resort on the pretext of making up for the prices charged by the black market.

Until now, there have been three prices for cement: The first is a subsidized price of 28 pounds per ton for cement sold for the construction of worship houses and government hospitals. The second price is 48 pounds per ton for cement sold to people with licenses for other kinds of construction and the third is the black market price which has now reached 66 pounds per ton and which has risen in some cases to 80 pounds or more. The new uniform price of 31 pounds will not apply to three types of construction: luxury housing, villas--hotels--and investment projects. These three kinds of construction will be supplied with cement at a price of 48 pounds per ton and the quantities supplied will be according to what is set in the building licenses. This means that these types of construction will benefit from the available quantities and will not have to be at the mercy of the black market.

According to the memorandum submitted to the Ministerial Services Committee by Dr Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, the minister of state for housing, reconstruction and land reclamation, calculation of the new uniform price has been reached on the basis that the production cost per ton of cement, in addition to the fees charged, amounts to 12 pounds. The government sells this kind of cement for 28 pounds per ton for certain kinds of buildings. As for imported cement, the cost per ton amounts to 48 pounds and this kind is sold for all other kinds of installations. The government and public sector are considered the prime buyer and consumer of cement because of the size of the construction projects which they carry out. This is why the studies have seen it fit to combine both prices--12 pounds for the local production + 48 pounds for imported cement--and to take the average cost, namely 30 pounds, and add to it one more pound to come up with the new uniform price. But because the production of the Egyptian cement plants amounts to nearly 3 million tons only whereas the consumption amounts to 6.5 million tons--which means that we import nearly 3.5 million tons annually--and because this may give rise to a black market, the ministry has already concluded contracts to import these quantities in order to meet the local consumption needs.

This is for this year. As for next year, the number of projects will increase and so the consumption volume will subsequently rise. Research shows that we will need 11 million tons of cement [annually] by 1985.

Production of 5 Million Tons

Here emerges the need to develop local production either by increasing the number of production lines in the existing plants or by increasing the number of the plants themselves. In this regard, contracts have already been concluded to increase the production lines to yield nearly 5 million tons by the year 1985. It has also become evident that the capacity of the pulverizers [al-tawahin] is bigger than the capacity of the furnaces. To take advantage of this, 700,000 tons of crude cement have been imported to be processed into [refined] cement in our plants. We will thus benefit from the difference in the price of crude and processed cement and will also

benefit by putting the Egyptian plants into operation. To provide incentives for the workers in these plants and to prevent the emigration of these workers in search of higher wages abroad, the government will, at the same time, purchase every ton of cement beyond the [set] production rate at double its price, thus raising the revenues of the plant which will then distribute these revenues to the workers in incentives and rewards amounting to 100 percent [of the workers' wages].

On the other hand, there are plans to build new plants. Invitations have been issued for international bids for the construction of the first plant which will have a capacity of one million tons annually. A decision will be made on the bids at the beginning of next September so that construction may start in order that production may begin in 1985. The plant costs will range between 120 and 160 million dollars, most of which will be in loans. After a decision is made on this plant, invitations will be issued for bids for another plant that will, most likely, be built in Qina or Sawhaj and a third plant in Asyut or al-Minya to serve the neighboring governorates. Production will thus rise gradually with the rise in consumption. It is important to build numerous plants because the hypothetical lifespan of the existing plants is about to end and these plants require complete renewal.

New Housing Law

This revolution in construction which will be created by the decree to unify the price of cement will have its far-reaching effects on the volume of the housing construction operations and on the relationship between the landlord and the tenant in a manner that underline a change in the present conduct and method. There are views and opinions projected at present in preparation for issuance of the new housing law over which there will definitely be sharp arguments. The most prominent and most likely of these opinions so far are the following:

Regarding apartments built before 1952 and not subjected to any of the laws reducing rents, the rent of such apartments will be raised to reach 100 percent [sic].

Regarding apartments built before or after 1952 and subjected to any of the laws reducing rents, their rents will be raised to reach 100 percent. This means that the rent of such apartments will be restored to what it was before implementation of the law--be it one or two laws.

Regarding apartments built between 1952 and the end of 1973 and not subjected to any of the laws reducing rents, their rent will be raised by two to three percent.

Regarding apartments built from the beginning of 1974 and until now, their rent will remain the same.

Landlord's Responsibilities and Commitments

In return for this increase which the tenant will pay the landlord, the landlord will be fully responsible for the maintenance and repair work, for the regular functioning of the lifts and for similar work required by a building, regardless of its size. If the landlord procrastinates or fails to carry out such work, the tenants can take legal measures against him, repair what has to be repaired and deduct the costs from the rent.

For the first time ever, the law will contain a completely new provision on which all opinions and studies are unanimous, namely the right to benefit from an apartment after the death or emigration of its owner. The current law states that ownership of the apartment shall revert to the resident wife and children, to one of the two parents or to the brothers if it is proven that they have lived in the apartment for no less than one year. The new law will consider a rented apartment a part of the inheritance, meaning that its ownership will revert legally to one of the children, even if he is married and non-resident, or to one of the two parents or to a brother whether the tenant [sic] leaves a will to the effect or not. Should a dispute develop among the heirs, then it shall be settled in favor of those who deserve the inheritance.

The opinions are also inclined toward having the new law stipulate for the first time ever the right of an apartment tenant to exchange apartments with any other person, regardless of whether in the same governorate or in a different governorate, by virtue of the fact that the tenant has the right (to dispose of the apartment) without violating the law. This will solve numerous problems, including the problem of a citizen having to live far from his place of work and the subsequent problem of the pressure exerted on the transportation services and others. It may even be that the tenant's health condition makes it inconvenient for him to live in the apartment or the apartment may be bigger or smaller than the tenant wants. The law thus guarantees the tenant's right to swap apartments or give up his apartment.

These are some features of the new law. Numerous circles, including housing and civil law experts, are now holding meetings to draw up the provisions of the law on the basis of the principle that "neither the tenant nor the landlord should be done an injustice and if anybody has to shoulder 'something' then let it be the responsibility of society in its entirety."

The significance of this is embodied clearly in new buildings and this law answers the question raised years ago, namely: Should the rent committees continue to exist, on what basis should they operate and what will the situation be if the "reasonable" rent pleases the landlord but overtaxes the tenant?

Here the research resorts to the experiences of other countries. The rule says that the rent that a tenant pays should not exceed 25-30 percent of his income. How can this be done when this rent, according to construction costs, is higher?

So far, the opinion agreed upon is that the state should, on behalf of society, make up for the landlord so as to encourage construction. This means that the landlord builds and then the rent committee comes and sets a reasonable rent. Meanwhile, the state pays the landlord a certain sum for every housing unit he builds. How much is this sum? It amounts to the difference between the individual's income and the value of the essentials that he must have. This is exactly what is still being studied, not only at the level of housing but also economically and socially so that the features of the revolution of construction, housing and stability may be made complete.

8494

CSO: 4802

EGYPT

BRIEFS

LOW-ECONOMY HOUSING--Before issuance of the new legislations, i.e. under the legislations currently in force, the low-economy housing budget consisted of the local cement revenues. Production costs per ton, plus the fees, amount to 12 pounds whereas a ton of cement is sold at a subsidized price of 28 pounds, i.e. each ton yields a profit of 16 pounds. The yield from the sale of local production, amounting to 3 million tons, is 48 million pounds which have formed the low-economy housing budget. After the new legislations and under the uniform price, the low-economy housing budget will no longer consist of these revenues but will become a part of the ministry's budget. This means that the state will not abandon this type of housing but will, on the contrary, expand it. [Text] [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Jun 80 p 3] 8494

CSO: 4802

MAJLES MEMBERS GIVE VIEWS ON NEW GOVERNMENT

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 6 Sep 80 p 6

[Article: "Majles Members Express Views Regarding the First Most Important Tasks of the New Government"]

[Text] In a letter to the Islamic Consultative Assembly last week, Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Raja'i presented his new cabinet. Raja'i's cabinet is, in fact, the first government that is formed after the setting up of the country's fundamental institutions, that of judicial and legislative powers. With the formation of Raja'i's government and following its confirmation, the country's third basic institution, the executive, will officially begin operation.

Expectations from the new government, called "the government of revolution" by so many, are, undoubtedly, very high. In that connection, the public is impatiently awaiting necessary action from the new cabinet. Expectations are various and many, and despite the fact that the new government should be given enough time for implementing its plans, public expectations from the government could not be ignored, especially now that formation of the new government has raised the hopes and aspirations of the people. The most important thing is to recognize the problems first and then try to do something about them.

In that connection, the Political Service of KEYHAN contacted a number of Majles representatives to learn about their views about "the most important responsibilities of the new government." It hopes that by doing so, the new cabinet, guided by the nation's representatives in the Majles, will be able to give priority to popular demands and take constructive steps towards the fulfillment of what are expected from a "revolutionary government."

The views expressed by various representatives could prove to be of great help to cabinet members in the preparation and execution of their future plans.

In its first report regarding views of the Majles representatives, we bring you views expressed by six Majles members. Views expressed by other representatives will be included in our future reports.

Golzadeh Ghafuri, Tehran Representative

Answering our question, he talked about the philosophy of governments, saying that history had shown that governments had most of the time, been the source of oppression, but always tried to justify their actions as being legitimate and legal. In such cases, the minority which comes to power by force, imposes itself on the people and thus widening the gap that exists between the ruled and the rulers. At the same time, there is another form of government which is aware of its humanitarian responsibilities. The Islamic government falls within the latter category because it has a divine mission, is honest and is responsible. It is also prepared to relinquish power whenever a more competent and responsible government steps in. In an Islamic government, authority and power is not an end but a mean. Tehran representative Golzadeh Ghafuri further added that he hoped that the government would grasp its big responsibility and be able to "crystalize" Islam with its actions. We earnestly hope that the new organization that is taking shape under the new government will represent such order. If the new government expects to have a place among the existing world governments it must pay attention to human freedom--both for Moslems and non-Moslems, who should be made familiar with our system through our actions. We must prove to the world that Islam values human beings and humanity. He said: "The government should strictly observe the constitution, especially its third article, which is composed of 16 different sections and was proposed by myself. The important issue is that of individual liberties and judicial security. Public welfare issues are something all talk about and it is hoped that they too will be taken care of. I hope that the government will give the issue of justice first priority so that people could go to proper authorities whenever they feel they have been wronged. This, of course, is possible only if people have confidence in our high judicial council. The most important issue, in my view, is that of human liberties in the light of the Islamic belief in one God." Ghafuri added that he supports the establishment of social justice and hoped that existing differences would be resolved so that the country could move towards higher goals and the bringing about of fundamental changes in the world such as abolishing the veto right of the super-powers. He said that childish issues must be set aside, and help free people from the present state of suspension. He said that in the end it is the people, the history and the future generation that are going to pass judgment on us.

Esma'il Fada'i, Majles Representative From Shazand, Arak

Fada'i said that even not considering the oppression of the past 2,500 years, oppression and crimes committed during the 57 years of cruel and suppressive rule of the Pahlavi regime has wiped out every human quality. It is the responsibility of the new government to bring the nation's sacred ideals into reality, which means acting in true Islamic way. He said that he was talking in general terms with regard to acting in an Islamic method for the fulfillment of the various demands of the people.

It must be born in mind, of course, that popular demands should be pursued in line with the Islamic laws.

The representative from Shazand further added that the country had many cultural shortcomings which had to be remedied by the new government through the raising of the people's level of education. Material needs of the people should also be taken into account. The government should also think of the nation's full and complete independence which could only be achieved through self-sufficiency and noncommitment. Everything must be done to make the country free from dependency on colonialist powers. Why should we sell our honor to the superpowers and purchase their "consumer goods." This way, he said, we give our pride away as well as our money. He further added that the government should do everything to raise the cultural level in the country, because with the raising of cultural level the economy will improve also. He said that he hoped that after cultural independence is achieved, Islam and the Islamic revolution could be exported and the oppressed and the needy masses throughout the world will be able to become familiar and to know the real Islam. By the will of God, we can then present Islam to all nations and all classes and truly establish it.

Hadi Ghaffari, Tehran Representative

Answering our question, Hadi Ghaffari said:

The most important duty of the new government is, first to determine its domestic policies. It should then turn its attention to the nation's economic problems. In the past 50 years of the Imperial government, Iran faced a bankrupt economy. On the one hand, the entire economy was overshadowed by oil. This must be immediately remedied. On the other hand, under difficult conditions when the country was confronting the superpowers of the East and the West, there were hidden elements that tried to create political instability in Iran. These events, whether from the right or the left, in unity but each in its own method, aim for political instability in the country. The reason for that is that with political and economic stability many of the nation's ills could be cured. If this is prevented, in a condition of public dissatisfaction, many things could be done. This is what we call the proper ground for a coup d'etat. Ghaffari continued by saying that coup d'etats would not be possible without a proper groundwork and, therefore, the first task of the government was to prepare plans for bringing political and economic stability back to the country. He also said it must be remembered that in the domestic front nothing could be accomplished if principles set by the Imam were ignored. He said that everybody knows what the line of the Imam was and that it should be followed meticulously. In connection with the status of various political groups, Hadi Ghaffari said that the issue should be separated from the imperialistic and the world-devouring events. As I have pointed out in the Majles, he said, in the history of the struggle of the Iranian nation, everytime people had become united and wanted to have an ideology, by

creating a particular issue, the superpowers had fomented unrest and chaos in the country and had neutralized the efforts of the nation. He believed that the superpowers were doing the same thing now. He said that political organizations with huge budgets were being set up here and there and efforts were being made to hinder our revolutionary endeavors by raising pre-ordered and standardized issues [sic]. To achieve their goals, he said, they are even prepared to create their own martyrs in order to cry over their corpses, and thus deceive and mislead the public. He said that the government was dutybound to act decisively in this respect and prevent the tragedy that occurred during the provisional government from being repeated. If political groups are given the opportunity, he said, they can simply sell the country to either the East or the West. He ended by saying that the nation considers the government as its legal representative and expects that it will prevent such a happening by legal and revolutionary methods.

Morteza Fazl'ali, Garmsar Representative

He believed that the establishment of security was the first duty of the government. He said: Internal security and the paying of attention to border areas, especially in the west, was the most important task of the government. He also called for a strict control by security forces of traffic in western parts of Iran so that peace and security could be established, especially in the Kordestan Province. He also said that the question of land, both agricultural and commercial, was very important, urging immediate government supervision. He said that in a number of areas people had taken over land that did not belong to them. This, he said, had created a rather chaotic situation noting that it could prove disastrous for the Islamic Republic if it was not stopped. Another important issue, he said, was coordination between revolutionary organs and government agencies which, he believed, did not exist in many places. He called for an end to overlapping authorities. On foreign policy, Fazl'ali said that it must be based on Islamic principles which, he believed, was the policy of "neither Eastern nor Western." He also said that it must be based on reciprocity in accordance with the ideology and interest of the Islamic revolution.

Musavi Kho'yniha, Tehran Representative

He said that the government had many immediate tasks and duties to perform but he believed that priority went to the purging of the executive organs. He was of the opinion that it was necessary because it would prepare them for the implementation of projects and legislations that were going to be approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly. He warned that as long as the executive was not purged nothing could be accomplished. With reference to economic problems, he said: "The most important duty of the government was to prepare the groundwork for the renewal of economic activities and the revival of agriculture. The great injustices and wrong done to our farmers should be corrected, in the sense that the government must provide them the same services that in the past had been reserved for the big urban areas."

Regarding foreign policy, he said that it was only natural that it should be based on revolutionary principles and standards. He also said that all countries should be put on the same footing and should be divided into two groups of Islamic and non Islamic. At the same time, he noted that in some Islamic countries relations with people was on a limited basis. He also said that liberation movements should be given all possible material and moral support with the Islamic liberation movements given priority.

Seyyed Mohammad Taqi Hosseyni, Zabol Representative

In answer to the question put to him by the Political Service of KEYHAN, Zabol representative Hosseyni said: "The government has two most important tasks to perform. First, it must turn its attention to internal situation and move towards repairing the damages done to the country. These are topped by the condition of the poor and the creating of jobs for the unemployed. Second, it must put the country's foreign policy in order so that our Islamic revolution could better be reflected abroad and the Islamic Republic be able to fulfill its mission." Regarding the role played by the government in the economy, he said that the stagnant economy must be revived on an Islamic basis, free from exploitation, until the country becomes self-sufficient. With sufficient effort we even can export our products on an international level. Regarding agriculture, he said that because of the geographical conditions Iran had great potential for agricultural development. What is needed, he said, was a thorough study of various aspects and a proper use of the needed manpower. He said the country was ready for this and all that was now needed was organization and proper planning. In conclusion, he referred to problems in the border areas, saying that the government bore a heavy responsibility with regards to fortifications in these areas. He said that because of the strategic importance of the nation's frontiers the problem of border security was of utmost importance which deserved priority over some domestic issues.

Fortunately, he said, the Majles is considering this problem and has drafted and submitted a bill for immediate debate calling for construction of roads in border areas which will be sent to officials for action following its approval.

9561

CSO: 4906

BRIEFS

FUNDAMENTALISTS UNABLE TO VISIT MECCA--Tehran, 11 Oct (KUNA)--Iranian Moslem Fundamentalists who are still fully determined to export their Islamic revolution to neighbouring Moslem countries would not be able to 'exhibit' their revolution at the annual pilgrimage in Mecca this year. The export plans were foiled due to the Iran-Iraq conflict and after Tehran expressed its inability to send Iranians for Haj by the land route. About one thousand Iranian pilgrims who left for Mecca before the war are being called back by the Iranian Government to take part in the 'holy war,' Iranian officials said today. Iranian Moslem Fundamentalists were making brisk preparations for the effective propagation of Islamic revolution among the Moslem pilgrims gathering from all over the world in Saudi Arabia. Influential religious leader Ayatollah Hosein Ali Montazeri in a statement issued only two days before the war had called on all Iranian pilgrims to make themselves ready for exporting Islamic revolution at the international gathering in the 'House of God' in the holy city of Mecca. [Text] [LD111236 Kuwait KUNA in English 1100 GMT 11 Oct 80]

CSO: 4920

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 4 Jul 80 pp 24-25

[Article: "What Are Resolutions Which Will Be Given Quality of 'Popular Legitimacy' by National Council; Iraqi-Syrian Political, Financial, Oil and Commercial Relations Are Normal; Baghdad Considers Its National Security to Include Gulf and Opposes 'Written' Agreements With United States"]

[Text] Two prominent and serious events coincided with the elections for the Iraqi National Council which took place in the middle of last month: The first was the attempt to storm the British Embassy in Baghdad and the second has been the military clashes on the Iraqi-Iranian borders which escalated before, during and after the elections. Iraq has accused the "Persian regime" of spurring these clashes.

Though the Iraqis no longer classify the clashes on their borders with Iran as surprises because such clashes have become a daily occurrence, they have dealt with the embassy incident which took place on the eve of the elections (the first incident of its kind since the monarchy was overthrown in 1958) as a serious matter aimed at diverting the media attention from the elections, not to say aimed at foiling and derailing the elections, as an Iraqi official source has stated. This is why quick and decisive action was taken to put an immediate end to the operation.

The National Council elections have given Iraq the first representative legislative parliament which includes 250 members representing Iraq's various governorates and citizens who amount to nearly 13.5 million people and of whom more than 6 million were called to take part in the elections. The voters did come to the polls in large numbers which were noticed by the hundreds of journalists from various countries who had responded to the invitation of the Iraqi Ministry of Information to cover the news of the elections which took place in one day from the northernmost to the southernmost part of the country, including the Kurdish self-rule areas which consist of the three governorates of Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah and al-Huk [presumably meaning Dahuk].

The outcome of the elections has not been surprising, whether in terms of voters or of winning candidates, most of whom are members of the ruling

party. The Iraqi official departments have asserted that "only a very small number out of the 6 million Iraqis of age 18 and above who are entitled to vote in accordance with the National Council law issued by the Revolution Command Council more than 3 months ago have failed to vote."

The fundamental observation concerns the qualitative "victory" scored by the Iraqi women whose right to vote and to be elected has been guaranteed for the first time by the law. Women have exercised this right strongly and have elected to the parliament 17 out of a total of 19 women who have run for election in the various governorates. Manal Yunis, the chairman of the Iraqi Women's Federation, is one of the most prominent women elected.

Election winners include four Revolution Command Council members, led by Na'im Haddad who may be elected council speaker. In the self-rule area, where elections will be held shortly to elect members of the area's special legislative council, 'Ubaydallah Barzani, the son of the late Kurdish leader Mulla Mustafa Barzani, and Bakr Rasul, a Kurdish notable, have won the elections. These two have run for election against 'Aziz and Hashim 'Aqrabi (the latter a minister of state) who are also Kurdish. The elections have also brought to the new council Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, the former minister of information and the current chief editor of AL-THAWRAH. Prominent media people elected to the new council also include Taha Yasin, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Even though the officials are eager not to differentiate and make distinctions between Ba'thist and independent and even though they have been asserting that the candidates came from the various political inclinations, excluding "the revolution's enemies," the certain fact is that the overwhelming majority of the 250-member council belongs to the ruling Ba'th Party and represents at the same time the various popular groups, such as the Peasants Federation. Five of the members of this federation's leadership have won seats in the new parliament, exactly as representatives of the workers, some retired military men and other personalities representing various sectors organized in labor unions have won.

In terms of organization and of the goals for which it has been established, the Iraqi National Council is not different from any other parliament in the world. Its basic task is that of legislation, but in participation with the Revolution Command Council, and of watchdog over the state establishments. This council is founded on a number of fundamental and general principles that are similar to those of most [parliamentary] councils in other countries.

Article 53 of the law in accordance with which the National Council has been founded states that "the National Council shall be summoned to convene by a republican decree within a period of no more than 15 days after announcement of the election results." This announcement was actually made on the day following the elections, i.e. on the 21st of last June.

However, the general impression among the Iraqi officials is that the preparations for the revolution celebrations which begin on the 17th of this month will delay convocation of the council's session for a few days to make it coincide with the start of the celebrations.

It is certain that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will take the opportunity of the opening session, which will be headed by the most senior member, to deliver a speech in which he will focus on the importance of this "phased step" that has been made at the level of "building the Iraqi-style democracy." The general impression is that the Iraqi president will outline in his speech the major tasks of the council during its term which has been set by the law at 4 years.

Observers in the Iraqi capital say that the significance of the council's task in the coming phase should not be underestimated at the Iraqi and Arab levels. These observers point out in this regard a number of important factors that have urged the Iraqi authority to speed up the formation of this council. One of these factors is the desire to give the quality of "popular legitimacy" to some of the domestic and external political resolutions expected to be made through having the council take part in preparing and announcing these resolutions.

AL-HAWADITH has learned from some well-informed circles in the Iraqi capital that the Revolution Council's permission to a number of its prominent members to run for election and the subsequent victory of these members has been meant to introduce strong elements to the centers of guidance and influence in the assembly's work and to give moral significance to any resolution this assembly adopts, especially since it has become almost certain that the assembly speakership, deputy speakership and secretariat will belong to these strong elements. It is true that there will be no "opposition" or "support" in the western (and Lebanese) sense insofar as the council's internal structure is concerned. However, the eagerness to secure consensus for the required resolutions, be they of a domestic or external nature, is a big concern.

At the foreign policy level, the positions which the assembly can help to crystallize are numerous, especially in regard to the relations with Syria, the Arab Gulf states, the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as Iraq's Lebanese, Palestinian and other policies.

Jasim 'Ulwan, the minister of state for foreign affairs, describes the Baghdad-Damascus pan-Arab relations as normal. Despite the tension arising as a result of incidents of infiltration on the borders between the two countries and despite the lukewarm bilateral political relations, the economic relations and Iraq's financial commitments toward Syria emanating from the Baghdad summit have not been at all affected because Iraq is paying its share of these commitments on schedule. Moreover, oil is still flowing to Baniyas. The commercial relations have suffered no ill effects whatsoever by evidence of the fact that Syrian goods were present in the Baghdad fair which was held a few months ago.

Insofar as Lebanon is concerned, the Iraqi policy is summed up in supporting any step decided upon by the legitimate authority and the government to end the Lebanese problem. It seems that the Iraqi officials are enthusiastic for the detente efforts being exerted by President Sarkis and the government. However, they consider the Lebanese issue a part of the game of the major powers "and the Lebanese must make the first step to pave the way for a solution because it is difficult to impose any solution to the Lebanese problem from abroad." Even though these officials acknowledge that the Lebanese issue is tied to the Middle East issue, they do not encourage putting a stress on this point because such stress is not in Lebanon's interest.

During his meeting with the Lebanese journalists, the Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs gave the impression that there is a kind of frost in the relations between Beirut and Baghdad when he said that direct contacts with Fu'ad Butrus, the Lebanese minister of foreign affairs, are almost nonexistent and that the only remaining channel of communication is the Lebanese Embassy in Baghdad. However, most of the Iraqi officials deny that there is a problem behind the delay in appointing a new Iraqi ambassador to Lebanon to replace the former ambassador who was wounded in an assassination attempt, returned to Baghdad for treatment and stayed in Baghdad after being appointed head of the Tourism Organization. The officials attribute this delay to a major factor, namely "the qualifications that any Iraqi ambassador to Lebanon must have," according to the words of an official Iraqi source.

The Iraqis are fighting the Iranian tide on two fronts: A military front all along their borders with Iran and a political front whose arena is the Arab Gulf states, especially Bahrain. The Iraqi officials do not conceal their support for Bahrain in the face of the Iranian threats on the basis of a principle which they stress, namely that any threat to the security of any Gulf state constitutes a direct threat to Iraq's national security.

The coordination attempts made with the Sultanate of Oman and embodied in the visit paid to Baghdad by the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs in the wake of the reports about Omani military "facilities" for the Americans can be viewed within this framework. The Iraqis say that they have expressed to Qasim al-Zawawi [Omani minister of state for foreign affairs] their strong opposition to any agreement between Oman and Washington in this regard and have said that if what is meant by the word "facilities" is "friendly visits" by some units of the U.S. navy to the Omani ports, then that is normal. But to have written and binding agreements concluded would constitute something that Baghdad rejects absolutely, especially since Baghdad is the advocate of the call for keeping the Arab world, particularly the Gulf, neutral in the struggle between the two superpowers.

In the Iraqi-Palestinian relations, Baghdad is inclined to disengage itself from some factions and organizations and to strengthen its ties with the PLO in its capacity as the vessel that contains the various currents.

It is within this perspective that closure of the offices of the Popular Front and of the Democratic Front in Baghdad can be interpreted. An Iraqi official has said that the disagreement with the Popular Front came to the forefront after the emergence of "special assessments in the front insofar as the situation in Iraq is concerned."

As for the United States, the Iraqi officials deny that any efforts are being exerted on their part to resume the two countries' diplomatic relations that were severed in 1967. However, these officials admit that the U.S. efforts in this regard are continuing, either directly through the U.S. Relations Branch in Baghdad or indirectly through some delegations friendly to the United States that have visited Iraq in recent times.

Minister 'Ulwan has said: Resumption of the relations with the United States can constitute a means to serve our national interest. However, our position in this regard is a principled pan-Arab [qawmi] position that has existed since the 1967 war and caused by the U.S. position of support for Israel. Our position cannot change unless the U.S. position changes.

On the Soviet side, the officials describe the relations as having returned to normal after being lukewarm because of the Iraqi position toward the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. The tepidity was eliminated as a result of the Kremlin leaders' understanding of the explanations on the Iraqi position regarding Afghanistan. The visit made by the Iraqi minister of industry to the Soviet capital (at the head of the committee overseeing the good progress of the Soviet-Iraqi friendship treaty) has contributed to this understanding.

But what about the impact of the presence of the new assembly on the country's ministerial and administrative structures?

It is evident that the success of a number of ministers, Revolution Command Council members, ministers of state, directors and others in the elections will bring about an inevitable change at these levels. It is expected that the assembly's opening session and the conclusion of the 17-30 July anniversary celebrations will be followed by important ministerial and administrative changes affecting a number of the main ministerial portfolios and major administrative posts.

However, the presidential system will remain the same and there will be no prime minister. This can be concluded not only from the officials themselves but also from the National Assembly law which puts the power of determining the fate of ministers in the hands of the president of the republic and of the Revolution Command Council solely. The assembly can withdraw its confidence in one minister only but necessarily in the ministers and the cabinet.

LARGE HOUSING PROJECTS PLANNED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Jun 80 p 7

[Article by Ra'd 'Abd-al-Jabbar: "Start of Seminar on Public Housing in Iraq; Construction of 1.38 Million Housing Units by Year 2000"]

[Text] Muhammad Fadl Husayn, the minister of housing and reconstruction, opened yesterday morning at al-Mansur Hotel hall the study seminar for familiarization with the Iraqi public housing plan. The seminar is organized by the Public Housing Organization.

At the outset of the seminar, the minister delivered an address in which he welcomed participants in the study seminar on the Iraqi housing plan. The housing sector gains its importance from the fact that it is connected with and affects the daily life of the citizens and that it influences society's movement and development.

The minister underlined the special attention given to the housing sector by the party and revolution leadership, headed by leader and President Saddam Husayn, through the leadership's adoption of and reliance on programmed scientific planning that seeks to secure proper housing for every citizen so that he may take part in strengthening society. This planning also seeks to secure happiness and reassurance for every citizen and his family. This goal is the cornerstone in the housing policy which the party and revolution leadership has decided to adopt.

The minister also underlined the inclination of the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction, represented by the Public Housing Organization, toward conducting complete studies to determine the country's housing needs until the year 2000.

He said that the volume of work awaiting us is embodied in the construction of 1.38 million new housing units of various kinds, in addition to improving and carrying out maintenance work for nearly 355,000 already existing housing units, in the next 20 years, and preserving the existing housing asset which represents a national wealth that must be preserved and developed.

He said that the support and care which the leader president gives this issue through his daily instructions and through his awareness of the problem and of the hardship that the masses suffer from it--an awareness developed as a result of his on-the-spot visits--give us absolute confidence that we will solve this problem ahead of schedule.

Engineer 'Abd-al-Muttalib al-'Uraybi, the chairman of the Public Housing Organization, then delivered an address in which he underlined the importance of this seminar for familiarization with the contents of the studies and programs included in the plan--a seminar aimed at deeper understanding of the contents of the plan and a deeper discussion of its various aspects, especially since the talk about housing has become an issue that concerns all the citizens of all walks of life because of the impact of housing on their daily lifestyle, on the future of their life and on the citizen's role in society's general development movement.

The participants were then familiarized with a model of the general housing plan which the Public Organization has set up in the meetings hall of al-Mansur Hotel.

The three-day seminar will discuss the research and studies presented by the participants and will also discuss the general housing plan in the country until the year 2000.

Representatives of Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan and of a number of international firms specialized in housing affairs are taking part in the seminar, in addition to a number of the officials concerned in the country's various ministries.

8494

CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

FRENCH RAILROAD EQUIPMENT--The French railroad industry has recently won two big overseas contracts in Iraq and Brazil after a very active year in 1979 when the [French] export sales realized an increase of 40 percent to reach 2.2 billion French francs (330 million dollars). The two contracts have been concluded with the French consortium of (Francorail) which includes five French industrial firms. These two contracts have come shortly after this French industry won a deal to supply 340 railroad cars to East Germany and 60 cars to the Netherlands and Costa Rica. The Iraqi agreement provides for supplying 72 electrical diesel locomotives with a total value of 556 million francs for the five partners in the Francorail group. This is considered the biggest contract for French diesel locomotives even though 23 percent of the contract's value will go to the U.S. (Elco) Company which will supply the engines. The Brazilian contract, valued at 300 million dollars, has been awarded to a group of European firms led by Francorail. The contract provides for supplying 600 kilometers of railroad lines to the Brazilian railroad network, as well as supplying this network with 60 electrical trains. [Text] [Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 29 Jun 80 p 9] 8494

CSO: 4802

EDITORIAL DENOUNCING QADHDHAFI QUOTED

LD111202 Kuwait KUNA in English 1038 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 11 Oct (KUNA)--ARAB TIMES on al-Qadhdhafi and the Iranian-Iraqi war:

"The Arab world, and the Gulf states in particular, have found memories of al-Qadhdhafi's lead in denouncing the shah's seizure of the three Gulf islands. He had then not only broken off relations with Iran, but also sequestered the assets of the British Petroleum in Libya, because he genuinely believed that there was British complicity behind the shah's action.

"When the Islamic revolution came to power, the Libyan-Iranian relations did not improve as hoped for by both sides because of the Musa as-Sadr affair, and also the declaration by the revolutionary regime that it will not return the islands to the Arab fold as one of the measures of undoing the wrongs committed by the shah. Only after forceful PLO intervention, Tehran and Tripoli had established diplomatic relations early this year.

"Therefore, if Iraq is now fighting a war for the defence of Arab rights, including the recovery of the Gulf islands, then Libya (?should) be among the first and the most vociferous and active supporters of the Iraqi campaign.

"Libya has broken the age-old and time-tested--but unwritten--convention that the Arab world is one when any of its members is locked in an armed battle against a non-Arab country. No independent Arab nation has ever actively supported a non-Arab country in its armed war against an Arab country. Col al-Qadhdhafi thus takes the dubious credit for making a deplorable beginning in this direction."

CSO: 4820

PHALANGISTS REPORTEDLY USE GAS WARFARE, PALESTINIAN FORCES TO UNITE

LD071515 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 3 Oct 80 p 16

[Untitled report on London MIDDLE EAST magazine article]

[Excerpt] The PLO permanent observer at the United Nations Zuhdi Tarazi said that he was reprimanded by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for his failure to coordinate with his colleagues, the Arab ambassadors to the world organization, during the recent General Assembly meeting on the Palestine problem.

Tarazi's behavior has angered the Arab ambassadors because he submitted a draft resolution to the General Assembly in cooperation with Third World ambassadors without consulting the Arab delegates and one of the Arab ambassadors personally complained to 'Arafat.

Regarding the question of chemical warfare which is currently being raised in the Western capitals, reports from Beirut said that the Phalangist party militia used a chemical gas that causes total paralysis for several minutes, during its clashes 2 months ago with Camille Shamun's National Liberal Party militia.

Palestinian sources said that the PLO feels concerned over these reports because of the military buildup by the Phalangist militia against the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, reports spoke about talks currently taking place in order to merge the al-'Asifah forces, the military wing of the Fatah movement, and the Palestine Liberatory Army under one single command within a single structure. This question as well as the question of uniting all the Palestinian resistance forces will be discussed at the coming Palestine National Council meeting.

CSO: 4802

ISRAELI ARMY MAGAZINE ON PLO MANPOWER PROBLEMS IN LEBANON

TA090903 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Oct 80 p 4

[Unattributed report: "PLO Facing Manpower Shortage in Lebanon"]

[Text] "The PLO is in distress in the area of manpower recruitment for its forces, which are dwindling as a result of battles with rival forces in Lebanon and in the wake of the constant military pressure the IDF is exerting in that country." This is reported in this week's edition of BAMAHANE, in the framework of a series of articles, by Hayim Raviv, on the Palestinians' institutionalization in Lebanon.

The PLO's manpower problem in Lebanon has become so acute that the organization's leader, Yasir 'Arafat, found it necessary to intervene personally to solve it. In his recent trip to several Arab countries, 'Arafat tried to get their leaders to help him to introduce compulsory mobilization among the Palestinians residing in their countries; however, the heads of these countries showed no tendency to accede to his request.

The PLO's manpower shortage was also recently reflected in 'Arafat's call to the Palestinian students in Europe to enlist for a half-year in the ranks of the terrorist organizations. In Lebanon itself the PLO has set up a bureau for the registration of student recruits, but the response appears to be miniscule, with the young persons who do enlist in the PLO doing so in order to finance their studies in the Arab University of Beirut.

CS0: 4805

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 20 Jul 80 p 19

[Interview with 'Ali Fadil, Deputy Minister of Justice, by Kamil Hazir; "Judiciary System in Aden Not Marxist; Islamic Shari'a One of Sources of Legislation; There Are Now in Aden 90 Courts, 10 Lawyers and 3 Female Judges"]

[Text] Aden--Before independence, the judiciary system in Aden was foreign or, to put it more accurately, British and Indian. Litigations, sentences and everything in the judiciary system from A to Z was in English. Appeals, if ever anybody thought of appealing a sentence issued against him, had to be made in India and then in Kenya. The Democratic Yemen was subject to laws which Britain called the "Aden laws" and which the British drew up for [sic] themselves and then abolished them after applying them for 100 years.

'Ali Fadil, the deputy minister of justice and of Islamic awqaf, has talked to us about the post-independence period and the laws issued during this period and about the difficult confrontation Aden faced in the wake of its independence in its search for a purely South Yemeni judiciary system.

The first law issued--the public prosecution law--came in 1973 and was followed by the family law in 1974 and the penal code in 1976. Lower courts have spread throughout the districts and the governorates and have reached nearly 90 courts in number, in addition to the governorate courts and the republic's Supreme Court which is considered the highest step in the judiciary system.

What is the role of the Islamic Shari'a in this regard? Fadil says it is one of the sources used, especially in matters concerning personal status and the family. The deputy minister, who spent years studying the Islamic Shari'a in Medina and in al-Azhar, has also said that the Islamic Shari'a is a complete system that prevents monopoly, tyranny and oppression. Following is the text of the interview:

[Question] Let us first talk about the path that the judiciary system in the Democratic Yemen has followed to reach its present legal form?

[Answer] Before independence, we did not have judiciary in the conventional sense. In the days of the British colonialism, Yemen was divided into 24 emirates or shaykhdoms in which the free system prevailed. Meanwhile, the Shafi'i rite dealt with cases concerning personal status or what is called the family. There was no complete judiciary system and the matter was confined to a number of courts present in the emirate of Aden, in addition to the Aden Higher Court. Appeals litigation took place in India when Aden was attached to the colonialist administration present in India. After India's independence, appeals on major cases were conducted in Kenya.

After independence, we faced extreme difficulties in setting up a complete judiciary structure. The number of then existing laws, enforced in Aden only, had been in force in Britain 100 years earlier. The judiciary cadres were comprised of members of the British and Indian foreign communities. Adenis were not permitted to perform such a task, not even study law abroad. English was used for all case trials, litigations and sentences. In 1968, we encountered difficulty in setting up a complete judiciary system when we were still in the first days of independence.

[Question] How were you able to overcome this situation?

[Answer] In the first months of 1968, we started setting up district courts throughout the entire republic while maintaining the Aden Higher Court to perform its role within the jurisdiction of the Aden Governorate. The major lawsuits filed in the other governorates were presented to a judiciary authority formed by the Ministry of Justice to examine such cases which were not within the jurisdiction of the district courts.

[Question] This is insofar as the judiciary apparatus is concerned. How did you face the issue of legal legislations?

[Answer] The legal and law legislations posed a more complicated problem. In Aden, the legislations in force had been enacted in Britain more than 100 years earlier and had then been abolished in Britain itself. It was difficult to get a law permitting those legislations and laws to be enacted in the republic's governorates. This is why we started issuing partial laws dealing with problems of an arbitative nature. With the onset of 1970, the year in which the constitution was promulgated, we started to establish legal approaches through bills drafted by specialized legal committees. The general prosecution law issued at the beginning of 1973 is considered the first law connected with the judiciary. The family was then promulgated in 1974. Through these two laws, the unified judiciary situation began to take form throughout the republic in terms of application. Then a number of other laws were issued in succession, including the penal code which was issued, along with its executive bill, in 1976.

At present, there are governorate courts, in addition to lower courts in the districts. In large districts, more than one court exists. This is in addition to the republic's Supreme Court which is the highest step in the judiciary system.

[Question] Is there a state security court?

[Answer] We have abolished this type of courts with the promulgation of the amended constitution at the beginning of 1979 when all the special courts, called the People's courts, were abolished.

[Question] Why were they abolished?

[Answer] With the promulgation of numerous laws and with the full completion of the judiciary apparatus throughout the republic and to give the judiciary greater guarantees, we found that there was no longer any need for the presence of People's Courts. The cases of a special nature, most often political cases, are examined by the court governorates and by the republic's Supreme Court in accordance with the penal code. This means that we do not have a special law. We have one law (general law), namely law No 3 of 1976.

[Question] What is the number of judges at present?

[Answer] The entire judiciary body in the republic is Yemeni. The number of judges at present is (equal) to the number of courts which amount to 13 courts per governorate at the average. It can be said that there are 90 judges distributed over Yemen's courts in the six governorates. In 1977, we established an institute to prepare and qualify judges. The graduates of this institute are not university graduates. Most of them work in public prosecution. In the governorate courts and the Aden Court, all the workers are university graduates. There are three female judges in the republic, one of whom has been working in the judiciary corps since 1970. The other two were nominated this year and they are currently undergoing a period of preparation and training.

[Question] Is there a sufficient number of lawyers?

[Answer] I said at the outset of the interview that the pre-independence judiciary corps in the republic consisted of foreigners. This is one of the problems that faced us. In 1976, we had only five lawyers. Now we have 10 lawyers who have broad experience with the law and with public prosecution.

[Question] What is the role of the Islamic Shari'a in the laws promulgated so far?

[Answer] The Islamic Shari'a is one of the sources from which we have directly taken. There are strictures in the Shari'a and they are clear strictures.

We have taken from the Islamic Shari'a also concerns personal status affairs, such as inheritance and family affairs. In this regard, we are like any other [Islamic] country.

[Question] In the family law, you have restricted marriage to only one woman. Isn't this in conflict with the Shari'a?

[Answer] In fact people try to raise this issue and to depict it as if it were in conflict with the Shari'a. But if we think calmly, we find that the Venerable Koran itself asks us to think. The Koranic text does not set the limit of four [wives] as an absolute limit but as a permissible limit that allows marriage to four wives. But the text sets a condition by stating: "And if you are afraid not to be just, then marry only one." Insofar as we are concerned, we have not restricted marriage to just one woman. We have permitted marriage to two, but only under certain conditions. If we weigh these conditions in the light of the Shari'a, we can say that we have taken regulatory measures to realize broader justice. The public interest in the Shari'a is the same and is based on the principles of analogy followed in all the jurisprudence rites of the Islamic Shari'a.

[Question] What is the situation insofar as divorce is concerned?

[Answer] In addition to regulating the issue of marriage, we have also regulated the issue of divorce so that a person's charge [wife] may no longer be subject to his disposition and psychological whims. If a person feels that his life within his family has become impossible, he must submit a request to the court explaining the reasons justifying a sentence in favor of a divorce. This is an organizational matter that was discussed in more than one meeting attended by a number of jurists, clergymen and judiciary men. Regarding divorce, women also have the right to demand it the same as men. The person demanding a divorce will have to pay compensation [alimony] to the other party.

[Question] From what perspective can the Islamic tide that has begun to invade the world as a contemporary phenomenon demanding a return to the roots and fundamentals of religion--from what perspective can this tide be viewed and what is your opinion of what has been said about the current confrontation between Islam and Marxism?

[Answer] We believe that the message of the venerable prophet is a social message against monopoly, slavery and tyranny and for justice and equal opportunities. When we examine Islam, we find it to be a message carried by the prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, and in which he was supported by the poor, the slaves and a few rich people, led by Abu-Bakr al-Siddiq who sacrificed his money to buy and liberate slaves.

The issue, in our view, is not an issue of an Islamic tide. I say this as a man who has studied the Islamic Shari'a. This Shari'a is a complete system that prohibits monopoly, tyranny and the exploitation of man. We find that the thing with which the Shari'a is in strongest conflict is capitalism.

[Question] What kind of attention does the ministry pay to mosques and to clergymen?

[Answer] There is a large number of mosques in Yemen. In the town of Tarim (Hadramaut Governorate), there nearly 360 mosques for every day of the year [sic]. The state takes full care of whatever concerns repair and maintenance for the mosques and whatever concerns all the mu'adhdhins and guards.

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C301 4802

COMMENTS ON CREATION OF CENTRAL BANK REVIEWED

Abu Dhabi AL-BAYAN in Arabic 4, 5 Aug 80

[Article by Ali Lashin: "The Central Bank is a Major Pillar of the National Economy"]

[4 Aug 80, p 3]

[Text] Fifty Percent of the UAE's Estimated Oil Revenues of More Than \$60 Billion Are to Be Deposited in Central Bank. Its Most Important Function Is Control of Banking. Its Range of Objectives Includes Securing Monetary Stability and Guiding the Investment of State Funds.

The Central Bank is considered to be one of the major pillars of the national economy. This fact will become obvious to the people of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] within the next few weeks, when they will become aware of the many advantages of this bank. The law creating the bank was promulgated last Friday.

All economic circles in the state have welcomed this law, because they realize that the central bank will play a great role in stabilizing economic conditions and protecting the state and the citizens.

We present this two-part article in recognition of the importance of the bank's mission.

Today we will present the views of government officials. Tomorrow, we will present the views of a group of officials in the banking sector in the UAE.

The need for a central bank

The law creating the central bank of the UAE has been under study since 1977. Many amendments have been made in it to accommodate the developments that have taken place on the international and local scenes, especially in the field of the national economy.

Commenting on this, 'Abd al-Malik al-Hamr, Chairman of the Monetary Council of Abu Dhabi, said: "The development of the State, the growth of its agencies and activities, the increase in the number of banks and financial institutions, the economic and financial development of the country in the past ten years, and the inevitable interaction between local and international economic conditions have all led to the need for the creation of a well developed central monetary system to organize the economic activities of the nation at home and abroad, so as to keep pace with the most modern monetary systems of the advanced countries. This is particularly important, in view of the pace of progress of the world around us."

A Federal Step

'Abd al-Malik added: "The decision of the president and vice-president of the state to deposit 50% of the oil revenues in the Central Bank to support the budget of the state is a very progressive federal step."

He added: "The decision to create a central bank is in itself a federal step forward. Armed with financial and legislative support, the Central Bank will have a great opportunity to act freely in the planning and execution of monetary policy, and its coordination with fiscal policy. These policies may be compared to the two wings of a bird. Together, they serve the national economy and protect the interests of the citizens and of future generations."

A Transitional Period

'Abd al-Malik continued: "Following the promulgation of the Central Bank law, there will be a transitional period of four months to permit the transformation of the Monetary Council into a central bank. This transitional period is needed to take inventory of assets and liabilities, and determine the general financial position of the council. This will be followed by the issuance of decrees appointing members of the board of directors of the Central Bank, establishing tables of organization and internal by-laws, defining the functions of various divisions of the bank and their interrelationships, and, finally, formulating high policy which will be applied in daily operations."

'Abd al-Malik concluded: "Our acquisition of financial support coupled with the necessary comprehensive legislation provide us with the necessary tools to exercise close control over both internal and external economic transactions in which the state is involved."

Key Positions

Muhammad al-Hadi, chairman of the monetary council in Dubai, commented as follows: "As we have repeatedly said, the central bank is the bank of banks. It is the state bank, and the economic and financial advisor of the state. Its most important functions are: issuing paper currency and coins; issuing permits to banks and financial institutions; supervising banking operations; and regulating money exchange and brokerage businesses."

"The Central Bank will represent the state at international monetary organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Settlements Bank, and all similar Arab and Islamic organizations.

"The Central Bank is considered to be a public agency having an independent legal entity. Its headquarters will be in Abu Dhabi and it will have branches in most of the Emirates. It also possesses authority to appoint agents and correspondents overseas."

Al-Hady emphasized the central bank's role in supporting the local currency, maintaining its stability at home and abroad, and supervising the exchange of foreign currencies.

Al-Hady mentioned that the central bank will prepare the national balance of payments in cooperation with the appropriate authorities at home and abroad.

Al-Hady indicated that the central bank is authorized to invest the state budget surpluses in cooperation with the ministry of finance.

Banking Supervision

Al-Hady added: "The most important function of the bank we are presently interested in, and which we wish to develop, is its banking supervision department. The mission of this department is to guide and direct the banks and cooperate with them in the interest of both the banking community and the state.

"This control does not mean restricting bankings activities. It constitutes mutual consultation and the giving of advice which should be respected. A bank violating guidelines attracts attention. If it repeats the violation, its license will be revoked. This is expected to be an infrequent occurrence, because all banks cooperate with us and understand our mission. For our part, our doors are open to anyone having a question or inquiry. Our main goal is to maintain the monetary liquidity of the state, prevent fraud, and reduce risks to depositors. Deposits are equivalent to an act of trust in the bank. The trust has to be protected and invested faithfully for the benefit of both depositor and the investors.

"We are also concerned with maintaining the confidentiality of banking transactions of individuals and the secrecy of the profession."

Al-Hady said: "The central bank will review the policy of granting credits presently followed by commercial banks, because it has caused some imbalance in the liquidity of the country. The central bank will attempt to correct the course of all of these matters in keeping with national policy."

Al-Hady concluded: "The Central Bank law will necessarily be supplemented by other laws at a later date. These will include: the depositors' protection law, the law governing checks and commercial paper, and the transfers law."

Credit Control

Since credit has an important effect on the economics and level of welfare of any country, governments entrust public organizations known as central banks with the mission of supervising and controlling credit. The laws authorize central banks to supervise the operations of commercial banks.

In this regard, Khalaf Sa'id al-Ghayth, director general of the finance ministry in Dubai told us: "Credits mean that the banks are granting loans. The Central Bank can influence the volume of credit in many ways. The most important ways are:

1. The rediscount rate. This represents the interest rate charged by the Central Bank when it rediscounts commercial paper accepted by commercial banks from their customers at a discount. If the Central Bank wants to increase the volume of credit in the community at large, it lowers the rediscount rate. This encourages commercial banks to rediscount notes in their possession, so as to increase the liquid funds which they can lend to their customers. When the Central Bank wants to reduce the volume of credit, it raises the rediscount rate. This forces the commercial banks to raise their discount rates, thus discouraging customers from asking for loans.
2. The legal reserve requirement. This involves changing the percentage of individual deposits which commercial banks are required by law or custom to maintain with the Central Bank. This percentage is raised when the Central Bank wants to restrict the volume of credit granted by commercial banks. When the Central Bank wishes to induce the commercial banks to expand the volume of credits, it lowers the percentage.
3. Moral suasion. The central bank has moral suasion powers over the commercial banks. It can induce these banks to follow a certain credit policy in keeping with definite political goals. Commercial banks have to heed the directions of the central bank, in view of the legal means it has to impose its credit policy.
4. Open market operations. These presuppose the existence of a highly organized financial bonds market. By this method, the central bank is able to control the volume of credit by buying and selling bonds on the open market. When the central bank buys these bonds, it gives the seller a check drawn on the Central Bank. The seller submits this check to his bank for collection from the Central Bank. The commercial bank credits the customer's account, and submits the check to the Central Bank. The latter credits the account of the commercial bank, and thereby increases the commercial bank's ability to expand its volume of credits. The opposite is true if the Central Bank sells bonds. When the Central Bank sells these

bonds for checks drawn on commercial banks, it reduces the reserves of the commercial banks with the Central Bank, and, consequently, restricts their ability to extend credits."

Control of Credit Objectives

Al-Ghayth added: "Control of the volume of credit is not an end in itself in central banking operations. The basic purpose of these activities is to direct credit in a way which is beneficial to the national economy in general.

"The commercial banks may grant credits for projects which are not essential to the welfare of society. At this point, the Central Bank intervenes to induce the distribution of credits to projects according to their importance.

"The Central Bank can also be an instrument in the hands of the authorities to harness all available resources in society. In the developing countries, the Central Bank takes upon itself the responsibility of enforcing a particular credit policy and requiring the commercial banks to follow it. For example, each economic sector receives a share of the financial resources of the commercial banks. This share can be determined on the basis of the sector's importance and its contribution to the economic development of society. Thus, if government policy is intended to encourage the agricultural sector and the industrial sector, credits to these two sectors can be facilitated, and credits to other sectors can be restricted.

5 Aug 80 p 3

[Text] The Central Bank's Control Covers 53 Banks and 340 Branches in the Emirates. The Bank's Responsibility Extends Beyond the Limits of the State to Reach the World and its Financial Organizations.

Yesterday, we presented the views of government officials regarding the promulgation of the Central Bank law, the importance of that step, and the effect it will have on the national economy in the Emirates.

Today, we present the views of bankers and financiers regarding this important event, what it means to them and what they expect to result from it.

Banking Supervision

"The existence of a Central Bank is undoubtedly very important. It is in the best interests of the national economy in general and the banking system in particular," stated Majid Al-Basus, director of marketing, planning and follow-up at the Central Office of the Abu Dhabi National Bank.

He added: "At the present time, the Monetary Council plays a commendable major role. We wish its authority had enabled it to exercise complete supervision of all banking operations in the country. This will be one of the Central Bank's functions, which will be more comprehensive and highly specialized than those of the Monetary Council.

"Accordingly, the Central Bank will have a more effective role, especially with regard to controlling the activities of the nation's banks. This is particularly important, in view of the large number of national and foreign banks, which has reached 53 banks with more than 340 branches in the country.

"This large number of banks undertakes various and diversified activities which have a great impact on the national economy. The Central Bank must control the activities of all banks in order to be in a position to rectify any aberrations of the national economy as they occur.

"The Monetary Council law was enacted in 1973. Since then, successive important events have occurred at home and abroad. The establishment of the Central Bank is an effort to reconcile the Monetary Council law with the chain of modern developments in the domain of monetary systems and policies at home and abroad, and to benefit from the experience of others in serving the national economy of the UAE."

Protecting the Banks

"The creation of the Central Bank will no doubt be in the interest of all banks. It has greater authority [than the Monetary Council] to balance the money supply, and steer economic activity in cooperation with other agencies in keeping with the dictates of the present state of economic development." So commented Ahmad Sadiq Muhammad Sami', vice-president of the Commercial Bank of the Gulf, Limited.

He added: "The Central Bank will have the ability to intervene in any ordinary banking practices, so as to direct them in the interest of the national economy. It will intervene in the money market; so as to maintain the value of the dirham versus foreign currencies at home and abroad. More important, it will support the national banks and stand by them in difficult times, since the bankruptcy of any one bank would be a serious setback to the national economy."

Interest Rate

David Alexander, President of the Gulf Bank said: "The enactment of the Central Bank law is a very important step. It will create beneficial cooperation within the banking family. It will also help strengthen the banking system in the UAE through effective control. It may try to merge or reduce the number of banks in the country in proportion to the population and the volume of local economic activity."

David Alexander added: "We hope that the Central Bank will intervene to maintain a low rate of interest, so as to help keep the cost of living down at home. This could be realized through the creation of numerous local investment opportunities, which would enable the banks to invest their funds at home, instead of looking for high rates of interest abroad.

Courageous Board of Directors

"The establishment of the Central Bank was an important economic necessity," said Abdullah Salih, president of Dubai National Bank, Limited. He added, "For the Central Bank to enjoy the trust of local and international financial institutions, its board of directors should consist of persons possessing national and international banking experience. These individuals should be courageous enough to exercise comprehensive control over the movement of capital at home and abroad. They must enjoy sufficient independence to resist any pressures which may be exerted upon them contrary to the goals of the establishment of the bank. There is no objection to the utilization of some foreign experts, provided their role is strictly consultative and that they do not interfere with the decision-making process."

Coordination of Banking Activity

Abdu Mahmud, assistant manager of the branch of the Abu Dhabi National Bank in Dubai commented on the importance of the enactment of the Central Bank law as follows: "In the absence of a Central Bank in the past, many commercial banks engaged in some erroneous practices. They can be excused for doing so, because they were not aware of each others' activities. When businessmen sensed demand for a commodity or type of merchandise, they rushed to the banks to obtain loans to make that commodity available on the market through manufacture or import. Thus, more than one businessman submitted loan requests to more than one bank for the same purpose. This resulted in flooding the market with a particular commodity. The commodity would not sell, and the businessmen would be unable to repay their loans to the banks.

"The Central Bank will be in a position to detect a situation like this, and advise the banks that a particular project has already been financed by one bank. Therefore, the banks will refrain from financing identical projects. Thus the Central Bank can play the role of coordinator of banking activity and can act in the best interests of the banking system. As an extension of this role, the Central Bank can be a clearing house for the various banks. However, for this role to be effective, a stable account must be kept by each bank with the Central Bank. This account would be adjusted after each clearing operation.

The Banking Credit Book

"The establishment of a Central Bank in the Emirates is an important step to strengthen the economic structure of the state," commented Ahmad 'Abd al-Hamid, the General Manager of the Bank of Cairo branches in the UAE. He

said: "We have been hoping for the creation of this bank for a long time, because of the significant effect it will have on the organization of the commercial and financial sector, as well as on the planning and execution of monetary policy, which steers the country along the road of development and economic progress.

"The new element which the Central Bank can introduce for us who work in the banking sector is accurate and advanced control of banking operations. This can be accomplished in two ways:

1. Creation of a credit record for every customer who is granted a loan from any bank operating in the country. The Central Bank would be the only one in a position to initiate and maintain such a record, since it receives credit information from every bank for each customer. The Central Bank would maintain a record for each customer indicating the capital of the customer and the loans he has received. If the same customer applies for new credit from a different bank, the latter could contact the Central Bank to obtain a true picture of the customer's status and determine whether or not he is already burdened by loans. In other words, the Central Bank would be in a position to advise each bank if it is in its best interest to grant new credit to a customer. This is important, because it was possible in the past for a merchant with a capital of 1 million dirhams to obtain loans of up to 56 million dirhams from the 56 banks operating in the country. Each bank granted credit without full knowledge of the customer's total financial position.

2. A uniform tariff for banking services. The imposition of a uniform tariff for banking services on all banks would have a stabilizing effect. The setting of a maximum interest rate on deposits stabilizes deposits in the banks. And the setting of a maximum interest rate on loans would protect borrowers from exploitation by some banks."

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ABU DHABI PETROLEUM EXPORT STATISTICS FOR 1978, 1979 GIVEN

Abu Dhabi AL-BAYAN in Arabic 8 Aug 80 p 2

[Text] Abu Dhabi crude oil exports to the U.S., Japan, France, the United Kingdom, Italy and Sweden decreased in 1979. At the same time, exports to Holland, West Germany, Pakistan, India, Brazil and Madagascar increased in comparison to 1978. A statistical report of the Abu Dhabi Planning Department indicates that the export of crude oil decreased from 172,743,000 barrels in 1978 to 163,561,000 in 1979. Exports to other countries were as follows:

- The U.S.: 69,358,000 barrels in 1978; 64,908,000 barrels in 1979.
- France: 61,193,000 barrels in 1978; 55,677,000 barrels in 1979.
- Holland: 30,844,000 barrels in 1978; 38,404,000 barrels in 1979.
- West Germany: 11,665,000 barrels in 1978; 28,320,000 barrels in 1979.
- The United Kingdom: 16,682,000 barrels in 1978; 8,082,000 barrels in 1979.
- Italy: 13,387,000 barrels in 1978; 7,605,000 barrels in 1979.
- Switzerland: 6,356,000 barrels in 1978; 8,928,000 barrels in 1979.
- Sweden: 9,474,000 barrels in 1978; 8,772,000 barrels in 1979.
- Pakistan: 7,397,000 barrels in 1978; 9,060,000 barrels in 1979.
- India: 7,380,000 barrels in 1978; 12,503,000 barrels in 1979.
- Japan: 5,289,000 barrels in 1978; 1,116,000 barrels in 1979.
- Brazil: 4,469,000 barrels in 1978; 1,197,000 barrels in 1979.
- Thailand: 4,441,000 barrels in 1978; 4,826,000 barrels in 1979.

-Brazil: 6,283,000 barrels in 1978; 9,201,000 barrels in 1979.

Last year Abu Dhabi exported crude oil to 4 new countries: Portugal, Ethiopia, Morocco and the Democratic Republic of Yemen, while it stopped exports to Egypt.

Although total exports decreased, development and public projects were not affected, due to the fact that oil revenues still yield a surplus amounting to millions of dirhams.

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ABU DHABI GAS INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAMS DISCUSSED

Dubai AL-BAYAN in Arabic 2 Aug 80 p 3

[Interview with unnamed vice-president of Abu Dhabi Liquefied Gas Company, by Khalid 'Ayibuni; date and place not given]

[Text] The gas industry in Abu Dhabi is a new industry in the full sense of the word. Until 1977, the gas associated with the oil extracted from sea and land oilfields was separated and burned. This wasteful situation continued until a project was initiated to liquefy both types of gas: natural gas and gas separated from petroleum in the offshore oilfields in Das Island.

With the rise of this new industry, the authorities began thinking of training citizens or Arab residents into personnel capable of running it.

Training is Investment

In an interview with the vice-president of the Abu Dhabi [Liquefied Gas] Company, our first question was about the progression of steps taken by the company in the field of training, and how the company views this subject.

He replied: "We view training as an investment. Our company is new, and our plant in Das Island is new. It uses the latest developments in Western technology. Our people who work in this industry must be trained and qualified. Otherwise we will remain at the mercy of foreigners, and will continue to pay them high wages. When we train our young men, we save a great deal, benefit our young men and avoid being at the mercy of foreign expertise. Since we opened the plant in October 1977, we have been training cadres from the ranks of our own citizens and those of other Arab nations. We sent trainees to the U.S. and Britain even before we officially inaugurated the plant."

[Question] Let us pause briefly to consider the subject of training overseas. How many trainees were sent to the U.S. and Britain?

[Answer] Twenty trainees. Sixteen were nationals and 4 were Arab brethren.

[Question] What kind of training do they receive?

[Answer] Actually, all of them are enrolled in scientific universities and institutions. In Britain, they study for a bachelor's degree in science of engineering, in various fields relating to the gas industry. They also study for British graduate degrees, in order to become engineers and technicians, and return to their homeland to assume their proper roles in this industry. In the U.S., the trainees also seek college degrees in various fields of the gas industry.

Local Training

[Question] Granted the importance of these study missions, training cannot be limited to sending personnel abroad. The company cannot be expected to send all trainees abroad on study missions which may last several years, and which may not be in fields essential to the gas industry. What is the status of local training within the company's training programs?

[Answer] He assured that we have not overlooked this matter. We realized from the beginning that we had to establish a training center in Abu Dhabi, and provide it with the necessary technical facilities and expertise to train the number of people needed in all specializations of the gas industry. We started this program under the supervision of the mother company, the Abu Dhabi National Petroleum Company (ANDOC). We selected thirty citizens and Arab nationals, and enrolled them in the center. We hope to begin to reap the benefits of this domestic training program within the next few years through the graduation of qualified technicians who are able to work in this modern industry.

Trainee Selection

[Question] On what basis are the trainees selected?

[Answer] At the beginning, we required that trainees should have a high school diploma, but we found that this condition was difficult to meet. There were not enough applicants, especially among the citizens. Therefore, we relaxed this condition, and accepted students who had finished the first year of high school. This enabled us to screen many applicants and select the best qualified for training.

[Question] What benefits does the trainee receive at the center?

[Answer] The trainee at the Abu Dhabi training center receives 2000 dirhams, if he lives outside the housing facilities of the company. If the trainee lives in the company housing facilities, he receives 1600 Dirhams, in addition to food and transportation. Those who study outside the country, receive 4500 Dirhams monthly, besides tuition fees and travel expenses. This amount is enough to cover the various expenses needed by the student.

Study Subjects

[Question] We need to pause and take a look at the training center in Abu Dhabi. How long does the program of study take? What are the subjects studied by the trainees in the course of two years?

[Answer] The length of study in the institute is two years. The emphasis in the first year is on learning the English language, since it is the language of the industry. Without it, it would be impossible to handle the equipment and technology at the plant.

In the second year, emphasis is on scientific subjects and on work in the laboratories to conduct experiments and acquire specialized technical knowledge.

The Language

[Question] We cannot deny the importance of the language. However, we should mention that the Arab Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (AOPEC), realizing the importance of Arabizing the oil industry, agreed to establish an oil industry training institute in Baghdad.

[Answer] We wish to achieve Arabization of technology, but we cannot stay behind and wait for that to happen. As long as our oil industry depends on Western technology, we must teach our trainees the English language, which is the only available key to the specialized knowledge of this industry. This is not a difficult problem, since our youth have proved capable of mastering the language during their first year of training.

Graduates' Salary is 8,000 Dirhams

[Question] Does the training end after the completion of the two years at the training institute?

[Answer] The graduates need some on-the-job training after they complete the two years at the center. During this period, the trainees are not all on the same level of competence. Some forge ahead, while others slip behind slightly. We send those who show potential for advancement on study or training missions abroad, or we give them more advanced positions at the Abu Dhabi Refining Plant at once.

[Question] If the trainee receives 2,000 dirhams during the two years of training he spends at the center, what is his salary after graduation?

[Answer] The salary of a trainee is 2,000 dirhams a month. After two years, he may expect to be paid up to 8,000 dirhams a month.

Arabization of Personnel of the Petroleum Industry

[Question] Are training facilities available in Abu Dhabi for the Abu Dhabi Refining Plant, and for the AOPEC Training Institute in Baghdad?

Arabization of the petroleum industry in general, and the gas industry in particular. This leads us to ask about Arabization in the Abu Dhabi Liquefied Gas Company.

[Answer] The company follows the general policy of the state. Execution of this policy is supervised by the petroleum department under the leadership of Dr Mani' ibn Said al-'Utayba, minister of petroleum and mineral resources. This is a policy of naturalization and Arabization. We train our Arab brethren in order to achieve this national goal. We have made good progress in the direction of Arabization. A good percentage of the technicians working for the company in Das Island is now Arab. The percentage of these Arab technicians has reached 35%.

I should mention that our attention to Arabization begins with the higher technical positions. If we consider these higher technical positions separately from other simple positions that require simple skills, the percentage of Arab personnel would be higher than 35%.

As I mentioned before, investment considerations are involved in this matter: we train our Arab brethren in order to benefit from them, and to gradually substitute them for foreign expertise.

Training Coordination:

[Question] What about coordination of training among the national companies?

[Answer] Actually, there is real coordination in the field of training between the mother company (ADNOC) and its affiliates. If you visit the training center, you will see that the students who study in joint groups are from various projects, especially in the first year. The curriculum and the programs are centrally prepared in a way that fits the practical needs of the various fields of the petroleum industry. For example, our first year students study with students of the chlorine factory, and students of the technology programs. Specialization begins during the second year. [End of interview]

Conclusion

There is an open invitation to all young citizens and Arab nationals to apply for any of the training programs of the Abu Dhabi Liquefied Gas Co or of ADNOC. Undoubtedly, the participation of youth in these programs will secure their future on one hand, and serve the future of the petroleum industry on the other.

An application is not a mere investment, but also a strategic move to secure the future of a young industry, which is still at the beginning of the road. Before we demand naturalizing this industry, we must make serious efforts to train the necessary Arab human resources capable of undertaking the responsibilities entailed by such naturalization.

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UK DAILY CITES EMIRATE CLAIM OF HORMUZ ISLANDS

LD031447 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 3 Oct 80 p 4

[Dispatch by Guy Rais: "'Return Hormuz Isles' Says Emirate Shaykh"]

[Text] A "request" for the return of two strategic islands in the Strait of Hormuz was made yesterday by Shaykh Saqr Ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, ruler of the northern-most state in the United Arab Emirates.

The islands were taken over by the shah of Iran from the emirate, Ras al-Khaimah, nine years ago.

The 64-year-old bearded shaykh who has ruled for 32 years told me: "Our request is simple. The emirates want to see the islands restored to their rightful owners--in this case the emirates--as soon as possible.

"The islands belong to my emirate but now we are in a federation the issue should be dealt with on that basis. [as published] We want to continue friendly relations with Iran."

Naval Activity

The shaykh was speaking amid reports emanating in the Gulf that Iran had stepped up naval activity around the two islands.

Unconfirmed reports said that an Iranian warship was standing off the two islands, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, and the Abu Musa which is shared jointly by the emirate of Sharjah and Iran.

The islands, about 80 miles from the strait at the mouth of the Gulf, are strongly fortified by the Iranian Navy. So far they have not been blocked and Iran has given a pledge that the Gulf would remain open to shipping.

Tankers have continued to pass through the strait since the war began 12 days ago.

Shaykh al-Qasimi, who took over control after an inter-family dispute and who, in 30 years has brought the backward emirate into a state of prosperity, received me in his palace, a modest white-washed single-storey building.

The only open display of opulence was a blue "Rolls-Royce" standing in the sweltering heat of the courtyard.

Answering questions in Arabic which were translated by one of his eight sons, the shaykh would not be drawn into specific replies on the Iraqi-Iranian war.

But he categorically rejected suggestions that facilities had been offered to both Iraq and Iran by the emirates. "The emirates have adopted a policy of neutrality and our ports and airports are not being used by either side. We are not at war."

Asked about reports that anti-aircraft guns had been positioned at his little-used international airport which has two or three scheduled commercial flights a day, he said: "What you have seen is the emirates' forces and they can go wherever they want."

Shaykh al-Qasimi agreed that he had visited Baghdad three weeks ago. "I went at the invitation of the Iraqi Government," he said. "It is a Moslem country and we discussed economic matters."

Asked what he felt about the super-powers' presence through their fleets in the Indian Ocean not far from the Gulf, he said: "This war has so far been confined to a limited military engagement. We are concerned with the possibility that it could escalate into a more dangerous stage. That is something we wish to avoid."

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